



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Transfer of Power Talks Resume in Egypt

NC0612140293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1305 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, 6 Dec (MENA)—The Palestinian-Israeli Security and Civilian Affairs Committees met for the second day in Cairo and al-'Arish today. They are discussing a range of subjects dealing with the transfer of power to the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area before 13 December, in line with the Palestinian-Israeli agreement that was signed in Washington on 13 September.

A Palestinian source told MENA that the Palestinian-Israeli talks are at an important stage and that the aim is to conclude the discussions about security and civilian affairs in Gaza and Jericho. He added that Dr. Nabil Sha'th, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser and chairman of the Palestinian delegation, and Major General Amnon Shahaq, Israeli deputy chief of staff and head of the Israeli delegation, will resume their consultations over the withdrawal process from Gaza and Jericho at a meeting Wednesday [8 December].

Dr. Sha'th reported that no progress has been achieved with regard to specifying the size of the Jericho area. Israel insists that this area does not exceed 30 sq km, while the Palestinians assert that it is 340 sq km, which is what it was before the 1967 war.

The meetings of the two committees will continue through Thursday.

Progress Cited in al-'Arish Talks

NC0612205893 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] A Palestinian-Israeli subcommittee continued its meetings in al-'Arish today to discuss the transfer of power in Gaza and Jericho to a Palestinian civil administration.

A source close to the negotiators announced that the talks made considerable progress on the transfer of civilian powers, particularly transportation, education, social affairs, agriculture, trade, and insurance. He added that progress was also made on several security matters, particularly police affairs and the question of the Palestinian detainees.

A member of the Palestinian delegation reported that Israel agreed at today's meeting to release some 3,500 detainees by the middle of next week.

Spokesman: Paris Talks Atmosphere 'Excellent'

TA0612203593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] Israeli Finance Minister Avraham Shohat met in Paris with PLO representative Abu-al-'Ala' [Ahmad

Quray'] to continue the deliberations on economic issues. An Israeli spokesman said the atmosphere was excellent, but it was decided not to divulge any information about the contents of the talks. Diplomats close to the deliberations said the Palestinians are opposed to Israeli proposals to form a completely open market between Israel and the autonomy because they fear Israeli economic hegemony.

Accord Signed With Jordan on Territories' Banks

TA0612180693 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] Jordan and Israel signed an economic memorandum of understanding which finalizes the document initialed last week in Washington approving the establishment of branches of Jordanian banks in the territories. Our economic affairs correspondent Shlomi Stein reports that the agreement will be in effect until supervision of banks is transferred to the autonomy and that the Palestinians will not participate in these deliberations. Within the framework of this agreement, it was decided that there would be ongoing contacts between the Bank of Israel and Jordan's Central Bank.

Islamic Affairs

ICO States at UN Reluctant Stance on Rushdie

NC0712085893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Text] Once again, the Islamic countries have clarified that the Islamic decree regarding the apostate author of the book *The Satanic Verses* does not pertain only to the Islamic Republic of Iran, but embraces the world's one billion Muslims.

According to IRNA's correspondent in New York, representatives of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] countries at the United Nations reaffirmed their stance on the Rushdie issue in reaction to the efforts of various Western countries propounding this issue at the United Nations.

At yesterday's session, it was announced that the Rushdie issue pertains to the Islamic world and that all Muslims, including Shiites and Sunnis, consider this book blasphemous and an insult to their sanctities. This session was convened following the Belgian envoy's speech on the Rushdie issue at the UN General Assembly. The ICO representatives reaffirmed their adherence to the substance of the concluding statement of the 18th ICO session and described it as immutable.

At the 18th session, which was held in 1989, 53 Islamic countries declared *The Satanic Verses* blasphemous, the author an apostate, and the dissemination of the book an insult to Islamic values. The Pakistani representative who presided over yesterday's session stated: In order to explain the Islamic countries' stance, the statement of

the 18th ICO session will be submitted to the head of the UN General Assembly so that it can be distributed to the representatives as a General Assembly document.

Recently, U.S. President Clinton met with the apostate writer of *The Satanic Verses*. Many Western countries are seeking to drag the Rushdie issue into the United Nations.

Popular Arab, Islamic Conference Issues Charter

EA0712095093 Khartoum SUNA in English 1615 GMT
6 Dec 93

[Text] Khartoum, 6 Dec (SUNA)—Any aggression or plot against Sudan's unity or stability is regarded as aggression against the Islamic and Arab nation and should be combatted by individuals and groups, PAIC [Popular Arab and Islamic Conference] members announced in a charter they issued here Saturday [4 December].

Saving Sudan's civilizational project and independent trends is an essential duty for all Islamic peoples and organizations of the Popular Arab and Islamic Conference, the charter on supporting the Islamic project in Sudan stressed.

The colonialist circles and Islam foes are now waging a press campaign against Sudan followed by attempts of imposing [an] economic blockade upon Sudan and interference in its domestic issues, the charter reached in the PAIC final session went on to say.

As regards the general and international policies the charter confirmed and resolution on isolating Sudan must be challenged regardless the adopting circle while the states and world organizations would be asked to support Sudan orientation. [sentence as received]

In the field of economy the charter called for adopting a world investment project to achieve a comprehensive economic revival in Sudan, formation of a Sudan's friend economic group along [with] experiments to participate in implementation of the technical and development projects in Sudan.

A group of distinguished media men would be chosen to supervise establishment of an international press foundation to deal with the colonialist campaigns against oppressed peoples of the world and expanded campaigns to acquaint public opinion on Sudan should be launched.

In connection to general mobilization, the charter urged the charity bodies to assist in conducting the projects of social development and reform in Sudan and an annual world day should be adopted for sustaining the poorest people as this year's day [?would] be directed for Sudan.

The charter recommended issuance of a call for all nations worldwide that the Muslims are desiring peace and dialogue instead of the imposed confrontation with others.

Al-Turabi on Supporting Movements

EA0612194593 Khartoum SUNA in English 1605 GMT
6 Dec 93

[Text] Khartoum, 6 Dec (SUNA)—The secretary general of the Popular Arab and Islamic Conference, PAIC, which had concluded its second session here yesterday, stressed that allegations and accusations made against Sudan targeted distortion of its image and impeded the implementation of its Islamic orientation.

Addressing a press conference today, Dr. Hasan 'Abdullah al-Turabi said that Sudanese people live in better conditions than in the past and that a million southern nationals displaced to the north now enjoyed security and freedom of religion contrary to rumours spread in the West.

He categorically [words indistinct] attribution to him that southern Sudan impeded the infiltration of Islam into Africa pointing out the journalists of papers reporting this had never visited southern Sudan.

He also denied allegations of his support and assistance to Islamic movement in some countries indicating that these movements were but an expression of the natural development of history and described these allegations as conspiracies plotted against the Islamic side in the world.

He said invitations were extended to some personalities in Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states but they could not attend due to personal reasons, adding that there was a serious initiative for reconciliation between Iran and Iraq whose results would materialize soon.

On his recent meeting with Pope John-Paul II in the Vatican, Dr. al-Turabi said that they had discussed issues related to dialogue between Islam and Christianity adding that the pope had welcomed the idea of dialogue, the establishment of channels and bodies for supporting this dialogue as well as standing against communism and secularism.

Dr. Turabi disclosed that unidentified European quarters had informed him of the involvement of other unnamed Europeans hostile to Islam in the perpetration of the assault against him in Canada.

He said that the detention of Shaykh 'Umar Abd-al-Rahman and a number of Sudanese people in the United States contravened the American Constitution and law because it lacked any evidence proving their involvement in the incident of bombing the International Trade Center in New York.

On the U.S.-Sudan relations he said that the United States had close relations with Sudan before the collapse of the Soviet Union indicating that the Sudanese people have no enmity toward the American people but opposed American Government decisions against Sudan pointing out American hostility against Islamists.

He said the modern Islamic movement was more contemporary and different from traditional patterns because it called for renewal and adoption of advanced patterns in politics, economy and culture different than the ones relating to socialist, communist and capitalist systems.

Palestinian Affairs

Sources: No Plans for 'Arafat-Rabin Meeting
NC0712103093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0937 GMT 7
Dec 93

[Text] Tunis, 7 Dec (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee member Dr. Samir Ghawshah has stressed that there are as yet no plans for a meeting between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in Tunis in the next few days. At the same time, high-level sources in the Tunisian Foreign Ministry said that they have no information on this issue and that it is groundless. They said that they have not received any request from the Palestinians for permission to convene this meeting. They ruled out that such a meeting will be held in Tunis soon.

Arab diplomatic sources totally ruled out a meeting between Rabin and 'Arafat in Tunis because the goal of such a meeting would be to sign an agreement on the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Gaza and Jericho, but the negotiations between the Palestinian and Israeli delegations have not resulted in any tangible progress. It is unlikely that the two sides will reach a final agreement before 13 December.

AFF: Rabin May Meet 'Arafat in Cairo 12 Dec
NC0712064493 Paris AFP in English 0209 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, Dec 7 (AFP)—Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir 'Arafat may meet in Cairo on December 12, Palestinian sources said here Monday [8 December].

The source, who asked to stay anonymous, said there was "an agreement in principle between the two sides" about the meeting.

The same source said the two delegation leaders at the Israeli-Palestinian talks on autonomy, namely Nabil Sha'ath for the Palestinians and Amnon Shahaq for Israel would exchange documents for a preliminary draft containing the views of each side on the issues now under discussion.

The source confirmed that the present round of negotiations was being prolonged until Thursday in a bid to clinch an agreement which would allow Israeli troops to start withdrawing from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank towns of Jericho on the scheduled date of December 13.

Israel appears increasingly to favour postponing the withdrawal in view of current violence in the occupied territories. Even the Palestinians, who said Monday the

negotiators are "working against time" to keep to the December 13 deadline, are privately mentioning the possibility of a postponement.

'Arafat Reportedly Deposes Gaza Fatah Heads

TA0612120393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100
GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat has deposed the head of the Fatah committee in the Gaza Strip, Muhammad Dahlan, and his two assistants, 'Abd-al-'Aziz Shahin and Rashid Abu-Shubayk, because he suspects they had been involved in the murders of Fatah men Muhammad Abu-Sha'ban and As'ad al-Saftawi. This was reported by Fatah sources to our correspondent Moti Amir.

Several of the young Fatah leaders in the Gaza Strip told our correspondent that the appointment of Zakariya al-Agha as head of the Fatah Movement Command in the strip will not change the situation there. They believe that al-Agha will retain his status as a senior member of the organization, but will not be able to control the Fatah military arm in the Gaza Strip because he has very little influence on the Palestinian street.

Furayh Abu-Middayn, member of the steering committee of the al-'Arish and Cairo talks with Israel, has said that an agreement regarding the release of the Palestinian prisoners has nearly been reached, but there still are differences regarding the size of the Jericho region, control over the border crossings, and the settlements of Netzarim and Kefar Darom in the center of the Gaza Strip. Eight Gaza Strip Palestinians will leave for Cairo this afternoon to take part in the talks in al-'Arish. Also in the Gaza Strip, sources expect the receipt of 600 Mercedes police patrol cars, donated by the German Government to the autonomy policy. The cars are expected to arrive from Jordan via the Jordan River bridges.

A general strike is staged in the Gaza Strip today, following a call by the Islamic Jihad to mark the 6th anniversary of the intifadah. A strike is also staged in Judea and Samaria and in East Jerusalem, but it is only partly observed.

Al-Husayni Appointed West Bank Head

NC0412202493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1955 GMT 4
Dec 93

[Text] Tunis, 4 Dec (MENA)—The Fatah Central Committee, the largest faction within the PLO, has decided to appoint Faysal al-Husayni as the official responsible for the Fatah Movement in the West Bank and Zakariya al-Agha as the official responsible for the movement in the Gaza Strip.

The movement also decided to make Muhammad Ghunaym responsible for activities abroad.

Al-Husayni Leaflet Warns of Resuming Attacks

TA0612163993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni's office in Jerusalem has disseminated a leaflet warning Israel that Fatah will resume its attacks on settlers and Israeli soldiers. The leaflet, signed Fatah, the Palestinian State, calls on the Rabin government to immediately cease chasing wanted men and said the behavior of the settlers endangers the peace process.

Fatah, Israeli Army Hold Talks on Gaza Tension

PM0612141193 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Dec 93 p3

[Unattributed report: "AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Publishes Details of Meeting Held Between Fatah Leaders in Gaza and Israeli Army"]

[Excerpt] Gaza, from the Information Services Center—News agencies this week carried reports about a meeting held in Gaza between the Israeli commander of the southern command and local Fatah leaders with the aim of calming the situation in the Gaza strip. Participants from both sides stated that Israel would stop hunting Fatah Hawks fugitives, reduce its military presence in densely populated areas, remove some of the barriers, and open roads, and that the Fatah members who attended the meeting, which was held on Tuesday [30 November], would contact the Fatah Hawks to persuade them not to resume armed struggle.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has met with some Palestinians who attended the talks. They denied that the purpose of the meeting was to reach agreement. They gave the following details:

The main purpose of the meeting was to exchange views not conclude an agreement. The meeting was attended on the Palestinian side by Sami Abu-Samhadanah, Ihab al-Ashqar, Sufyan Abu-Zaydan, Diyab al-Lawh, Hisham al-Dasuqi, and Tawfiq Abu-Khawsah. On the Israeli side it was attended by General Matan Vilan'i, commander of the southern command, and four others. The Palestinians submitted the following requests at the meeting:

1. The release of Taysir al-Burdayni, the Hawks official arrested Monday.
2. The release of the Hawks arrested immediately after the signing of the Washington agreement.
3. An apology by Rabin for the murder of Ahmad abu-al-Rish, the Hawk fugitive who gave himself up and was then assassinated.
4. The discontinuation of the hunt for the fugitives.
5. The reopening of the roads blocked with cement barrels.
6. Permission for civilian cars to overtake military patrols on the roads—overtaking is banned by military order.

The following were the Israeli demands at the meeting:

1. That the situation in the Gaza Strip be calmed down.
2. That the Fatah members who attended the meeting should contact the Fatah Hawks and ask them to rescind their decision to resume military action.

There was no agreement. Each side promised to do its best. In the 48 hours following the meeting, Israel only released one of the 20 Hawks recently detained. He is Isma'il Abu-al-Qumsan. [passage omitted]

Pro-Husayn Gazan Named as Mayor Under Autonomy

TA0612204393 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] The security forces captured Ahmad 'Arifi, a Fatah activist on the wanted list, in the al-Shati' refugee camp. He was in possession of a revolver, which he handed over, promised to stop his terrorist activities, and was released.

Today, there was a general strike in the Gaza Strip declared by the Islamic Jihad. There was sit-in strike and procession in Rafah in solidarity with the Palestinians in Israeli jails, especially the Fatah Hawks commander captured last week. Hisham al-Ju'bah, a former Fatah Hawks commander who was released from prison, told the gathering that if all the prisoners are not released there will be no peace.

PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat made a surprise appointment. The Gaza mayor under the Palestinians will be Mansur al-Shawwa, who is known to be close to the Jordanian royal family. Al-Shawwa is the son of the late Rashad al-Shawwa, a former Gaza mayor. He told the biweekly JERUSALEM REPORT that 'Arafat has accepted his view that the town council has to include representatives of all political streams. Our Arab affairs correspondent reports that al-Shawwa said he plans to go to Amman in the coming days after receiving a green light from King Husayn. His one condition is that there be a prior agreement with 'Arafat on the financial assistance to be given to the municipality since many countries are unwilling to have funds be transferred through the PLO.

Delegate Previews Discussions With Christopher

NC0612175193 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] Ghassan al-Khatib, member of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations, said that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will meet with the members of the Palestinian delegation during his current regional tour. He will discuss with them ways of surmounting the obstacles facing the Palestinian-Israeli talks and economic and development issues.

In remarks to our radio's central news unit, al-Khatib announced that the PLO will restate its demand that the United States play a more effective role in persuading Israel to adopt positive positions harmonious with the text and spirit of the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

Success of Christopher Damascus Mission Predicted

JN0612212093 Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1600 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Dear brothers: U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is bound to be carrying with him some new proposals. What could these proposals be? There are numerous news reports on the issue. Most of these reports maintained that the U.S. secretary of state is carrying with him specific proposals to advance the peace negotiations on the Syrian-Zionist track. U.S. sources said that these proposals advocate a U.S. sponsorship of the Syrian-Zionist negotiations. The United States is meant to serve as a mediator to approximate views and ensure the attainment of a Syrian-Zionist agreement on common denominators. Christopher may offer the Syrian regime's leader during their meeting a summit with U.S. President Bill Clinton. If these expectations materialize, the U.S. secretary of state will set the condition that Damascus endorse the proposals he is carrying. The meeting with Clinton is meant to be a media stunt to allow for the resumption of talks between the Syrian regime and the Zionist entity and the announcement of an agreement between them. Such a summit with Clinton would be a prelude to a summit between Rabin and Hafiz al-Asad. As a matter of fact, the holding of such a summit between Rabin and al-Asad is an old U.S. proposal that was previously offered to the Syrian regime.

Political quarters have expected Warren Christopher to make great progress in his mission, particularly since the Syrian regime does not want to obstruct the peace process. Indeed, it had offered the United States clear and specific pledges to this effect.

'Ashrawi on Talks, Israeli 'Noncompliance'

PM0612121193 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 3 Dec 93
p 6

[Interview with Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokesperson for the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, by Rashid Khashanah in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] [Khashanah] What did the Palestinian leadership discuss at its meetings?

[Ashrawi] We reviewed the basic issues, that is, negotiations with Israel and internal preparation of Palestinian organs, in addition to economic questions, the results of brother Abu-'Ammar's [Yasir 'Arafat] visits to European countries, and proposals concerning political actions internally and internationally. In this context we focused on diagnosing the serious situation in the occupied territories and the deterioration of the situation as a result of the Israeli escalation. Of course, this escalation

affects the position of the Palestinian people in general and the credibility of the peace process as a whole, as well as Israel's credibility.

[Khashanah] Do you expect progress to be achieved in the negotiations before the date set for the withdrawal—13 December?

[Ashrawi] There is an Israeli position on the withdrawal timetable which we reject because it contravenes the stipulations of the Washington agreement. The delay and procrastination we are experiencing do not serve the peace process. In fact they reflect the Israelis' noncompliance with what they signed. If they are still committed to implementing what they signed, the road to progress in the negotiations will be clear. But we see a negative indication in the escalation practices.

[Khashanah] Will the withdrawal begin 13 December?

[Ashrawi] We are committed to the agreement, and the timetable specifies the 13th of next month as the date for starting the withdrawals. The agreement's strength lies in the commitment of those who signed its clauses. Any agreement is worthless if it is not implemented. Thus we are not looking for letters but implementation.

There should be seriousness in dealing with the basic issues included in the agreement; that is, Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, setting up crossings and bridges under the Palestinian authority's supervision, and releasing detainees and prisoners. These are all political rights, not demands, because their obligatory nature is clear. And we believe their implementation is a real test for each party's intentions.

[Khashanah] Some people say the PLO is not ready to take over authority?

[Ashrawi] That is not their business. It is our business to be ready or not ready. As for their [Israelis'] role, it is to comply with what they signed. We are not asking them to shoulder our concerns.

Work is under way in Palestinian departments and organs and at all levels and in all spheres, but it is an internal Palestinian issue. I do not know how they can assess our steps in this connection, when the proper thing is for them to work on their own readiness for the next phase. We believe that escalation has replaced readiness to tackle the new stage with new vision.

And if Israel is unable to handle the requirements of the peace stage, how can it criticize the PLO for not being ready? The English proverb says: "Why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?"

[Khashanah] Do you expect U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour to ease the situation?

[Ashrawi] That depends on the tour's aims. It will focus on reactivating the negotiations on the various tracks—which is useful, because the tracks are linked. Eagerness

to achieve progress on the Syrian-Israeli track, urging Israel to comply with the logic of peace, playing a role between the Syrians and the Israelis, and assuring the parties about a comprehensive solution—these are all positive things. And without doubt progress on the Syrian track is in the interests of all the parties, specifically the Palestinians.

Furthermore, Secretary Christopher's tour will reflect U.S. endeavors to follow up the talks (with the Palestinians) at the political, economic, and negotiation levels.

[Khashanah] Did you discuss a Palestinian response to the Israeli escalation?

[Ashrawi] In view of the critical situation, we believe it is necessary to confront Israel with its responsibilities, because what is happening has serious implications and affects the position of Palestinian public opinion. There is an escalation of the repression and killing practices, and there are hard-line and rigid positions in the negotiations, and the Israeli Government is required to take tangible steps to restrain the settlers' practices and the Army and to condemn the violence against the Palestinians and launch comprehensive investigations. If a state like Israel is not capable of controlling the situation and containing the people and public opinion in it, as it says, then what about the PLO?

Israel has duties stemming from the signing of the Washington agreement, and it must show it is capable of seriously tackling these duties. In addition, bilateral U.S.-Palestinian relations will be included in Christopher's tour of the region, especially with regard to following up the Palestinian economic and development program, setting up Palestinian institutions and the authority's organs, and determining the expenses needed to implement the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

[Khashanah] Has the Palestinian leadership achieved any progress with regard to the formation of the political authority?

[Ashrawi] We are still discussing the issue and will announce the formation at the right time.

[Khashanah] Did the two Israeli envoys carry anything new from Rabin to 'Arafat?

[Ashrawi] Ask Abu-'Ammar ['Arafat].

Shu'ib on 'New Israeli Position' on Withdrawal

PM011211449) London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Dec 93 p1

[Muhammad 'Ali al-Qulaybi report: "Palestinian Leadership Discusses Position Regarding the New Israeli Pressure Card"]

[Excerpt] Tunis—The Palestinian leadership in Tunis is discussing what has been described as a new pressure card used by Israel in its negotiations with the PLO in the Gaza-Jericho Committee. That is reflected in the

Israeli observation that there is self-contradiction in the Palestinian position on the question of adherence to the agreed date of 13 December for Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho and the transfer of authority by that date as stipulated in the Palestinian-Israeli agreement signed in Washington on 13 September.

This came in a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT by a prominent Palestinian official following President Yasser 'Arafat's call for an urgent meeting of the leadership to discuss the latest developments in the peace process. 'Arafat made that call immediately after returning to Tunis at dawn the day before yesterday from a tour of four Scandinavian countries.

Sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the meeting, attended by members of the [PLO] Executive Committee and Fatah's Central Committee, will discuss a number of important issues especially the obstacles facing the Gaza-Jericho negotiations, particularly the new Israeli position reported by Dr. Nabil Sha'ith, head of the Palestinian team in the negotiations, to President Yasser 'Arafat during his visit to Finland where they met for two hours. Sha'ith told 'Arafat that the new Israeli position is one of redeployment of the Israeli Army and not withdrawal as agreed in the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles. [passage omitted]

Delegate on Dispute on Control of Crossing Palestine

NC0612211293) Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1940 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Interview with Ghassan al-Khatib, member of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] The U.S. secretary of state is mediating between Syria and Israel but is not playing the same role between the Palestinians and Israel because, he said, he will only do so if the two sides ask him. We know that Israel has rejected the U.S. sponsor's intervention while the Palestinians are demanding it. Will Christopher's talks with the Palestinian side focus only on the economic and development issues?

[Al-Khatib] No. In addition to the development issues, the Palestinian side's talks with Christopher will include basically the recent obstacles that have faced the Palestinian-Israeli track. Although Christopher has expressed his unwillingness to play an official mediator's role between the two sides unless he is asked by both sides, he has still agreed to make efforts through bilateral ties between the United States and both Israel and the PLO. The U.S. guest will hear the two sides' views of the obstacles facing the current negotiations. The Palestinian side will again ask the U.S. secretary that the United States play a role and convince Israel of the need to take negotiating stances that are more harmonious with the spirit and letter of the agreement it signed in Washington.

[Correspondent] Mr. al-Khatib. The intensive talks between the Palestinians and Israelis are continuing in Cairo and al-'Arish. Do you believe that the remaining period is enough to overcome the differences?

[Al-Khatib] The delegations are not expected to reach agreements during the remaining short period, that is by 13 December. The reason for this is that Israel is trying in the Cairo and al-'Arish talks—and before them in Taba—to retreat from stands to which it committed itself in Oslo and Washington. This is impeding progress. In the Israeli concept, the withdrawal that the agreement spoke about has turned into a redeployment of forces and the full Palestinian internal security authority as stipulated in the agreement has turned into a partnership in the Israeli side's view. The Jericho area mentioned in the agreement has turned into the city of Jericho according to the Israeli interpretation. These are mere examples of the Israeli attempts to wriggle out of its commitments. We are committed to the date of 13 December but we believe that the Israeli stance will not allow the implementation of the agreement by that date and, therefore, we officially hold the Israeli side responsible for the damage that will result from the failure to withdraw by that date. The most important damage will be the loss of the credibility of the political process and the agreement among the Israeli and Palestinian peoples.

[Correspondent] You mentioned now the differences between the Palestinian and Israeli sides and said that there is a retreat in the Israeli stances. But regarding the issue of external security, the Israeli side is insisting that external security is the concern of the Israelis according to the Oslo agreement while the Palestinian side is insisting that the crossing points should be under Palestinian control.

[Al-Khatib] We do not dispute that the agreement stipulated that external security is an Israeli prerogative in the transitional phase. This has not changed on our side. But coming to the question of the crossing points, we are not talking here about the security aspect. The external security responsibility means Israel's prerogative to keep Israeli forces to monitor the borders and for external defensive purposes. But this does not mean that they have the right to supervise the crossing points because these must be part of the Palestinian authority. The agreement stipulated that there should be coordination between the Palestinian and Israeli sides in supervising movement through the crossing points. It is our view that the Israeli side's insistence on continuing its control of the crossing points deprives the withdrawal of its substance because the areas from which Israel will withdraw will in this case become surrounded on all sides by areas occupied by Israel. The areas from which there will be withdrawal must have openings to the outside world so that the withdrawal can be meaningful. This, in our view, does not conflict with the responsibility for external security that must have appropriate arrangements.

Envoy Discusses Disagreements With Israel

LD0412154993 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic
1200 GMT 4 Dec 93

[Text] In a telephone interview, the ambassador of the state of Palestine to Algeria, Mr. Abu al-'Iz, explains the reasons behind the increasing violence in the occupied territories.

[Begin Al-'Iz recording] The Israeli Government is playing on the interpretation of the clauses of the accord and is not sticking to the agreed dates; and the Israeli settlers feel that the end is drawing closer for them and that the settlements will eventually go, either in the coming days, weeks, months, or during the transition period. This has caused the settlers to react. This reminds me of the period following the signing of the Evian accords [between the FLN and France] since the *pieds-noirs* [French settlers] carried out similar actions in Algeria when they felt that the accord was going to be implemented and that their future had become uncertain and unclear and that their end was drawing closer. Consequently they caused a number of incidents in Algeria.

As I have already said, the behavior of the settlers and the Israeli troops reminds me of those events that preceded Algeria's independence. Therefore, this violence can be attributed to the fact that the Israelis feel that they will be leaving this land [the occupied territories] sooner or later. This explains their reactions, which are aimed at provoking and attempting to obstruct the implementation of the accord. [end recording]

[Announcer] Concerning the controversial points in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, Mr. Abu al-'Iz had this to say:

[Begin Al-'Iz recording] The disagreements are first of all about the area of the settlements in the Gaza Strip. The second point concerns the passages or crossing-points. All these crossing-points are supposed to be under the control of the Palestinian authority. The Israelis tried, however, during the negotiations, to put these crossing-points under joint control. Their excuse was that during the transition period there should be some kind of Israeli presence. However, the Palestinian side is resolved and determined that it should have full sovereignty over all the crossing-points, whether they lead to and from Egyptian territory or to and from Jordanian territory.

The third point [of disagreement] concerns the area of the Jericho region in this [transition] period. The Palestinian side suggests, as is known already, an area of over 400 km but the Israeli side is trying to reduce this area by limiting it only to the town of Jericho, which does not exceed 25 or 27 km.

The other point concerns the detainees and their release. As is common knowledge, there are at least 14,000 Palestinian prisoners or detainees inside Israeli prisons. Israel has tried to fudge this issue but the Palestinian side is insisting that all detainees should be released before

and during the Israeli withdrawal, which will begin on 12 December. However, the Israelis have tried to oppose the release of all detainees and have suggested releasing them in batches. They have also tried to play on the issue of political affiliations. [end recording]

Qaddumi Urges 'Precise Compliance' With Accord

PM0312101693 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 1 Dec 93 p 5

[Raghidah Dirgham report: "New York: Qaddumi Urges Precise Compliance With Declaration of Principles"]

[Excerpt] New York—Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, has emphasized "the need for precise compliance with the Declaration of Principles" between Israel and the PLO, "especially with regard to beginning the Israeli withdrawal on 13 December." He told the United Nations General Assembly that compliance with the start of withdrawal on this date "is the first test of intentions and the truthfulness of political decisionmaking."

In his address on the occasion of world day for solidarity with the Palestinian people Qaddumi pointed to the "threat posed by the ugly actions committed by armed Israeli settlers" against the Palestinian people. He said: "We stress the Israeli authorities' responsibility for putting an end to this serious phenomenon immediately in order to safeguard the peace process."

He urged Israel to "lift the blockade fully on Jerusalem, release the detainees, and return all the deportees, while negotiations should continue between the two sides to implement the declaration of principles." He said that continuing to work to "embody the results on the ground will represent important steps forward."

He also emphasized that the aim "was and still is" to achieve a comprehensive, lasting, and just peace in the Middle East. He said: "Thus tangible progress must be achieved on the other tracks of Arab-Israeli negotiations." He expressed his satisfaction with developments on the Jordanian-Israeli track, saying: "We emphasize the need to achieve progress on the Syrian-Israeli and Lebanese-Israeli tracks. It is a condition for achieving a final settlement based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, Resolution 425, and the other related UN resolutions."

He spoke about Palestinian refugees, 2.8 million of them "representing half of our people."

He said: "We must solve their problem in line with international legitimacy, specifically in accordance with Clause 11 of Resolution 194 of 1948, which stipulates the right of return, or compensation for those who do not wish to return." [passage omitted]

Qaddumi Meets With World Bank, U.S. Officials

JN0312195493 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] Brother Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, held talks with World Bank and U.S. Administration officials in Washington today. The talks dealt with the next phases of the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, which was signed in September. Palestinian sources said that the visit, which will last several days, basically aims at [words indistinct] to discuss the steps [words indistinct] to develop the Gaza and Jericho region, which, in accordance with the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, will be handed to the Palestinian authority.

It is noteworthy that this aid was decided during the international conference held in the U.S. capital on 1 October. During that conference, states and international organizations pledged to extend the required aid to rebuild the infrastructure in the occupied territory after it was destroyed during the years of the Israeli occupation.

Meets World Bank Deputy Director

LD0512204793 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 4 Dec 93

[Text] Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], the head of PLO's Political Department, yesterday afternoon met the deputy director of the World Bank for Middle East Affairs, (K. Shwazer), in Washington.

(Shwazer) reviewed the Bank's persistent efforts on the best uses of funds granted by donor countries, in cooperation with the PLO. He specifically emphasized the meeting of the donor countries consultative group due to be held in Paris on 16 December. The meeting was attended by Sari Nusaybah, Zuhdi al-Tarazi, Sa'id Kamal and Anis al-Barghuthi, as well as (Shwazer)'s senior assistants.

Brother Abu al-Lutf also met the World Bank team which had visited the occupied Palestinian territories and had prepared diverse surveys needed to bolster plans of construction and development for the Palestinian territories after the withdrawal of the Israeli troops from the Gaza strip and the Jericho area.

Brother Abu al-Lutf also met a group of Arab and Palestinian academics who have some fears about the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles agreement signed on 13 September in Washington.

During this meeting, brother Abu al-Lutf explained the view of the PLO and its leadership on the agreement and kept the academics abreast of the latest developments of the situation regarding the negotiations under way in Egypt on implementing the withdrawal.

South Asian Regional Affairs

Foreign Ministers Arrive in Dhaka for SAARC Session

India's Singh Urges Kashmir Solution

BK0312130693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh, has said that the Kashmir issue should be solved on the basis of the Simla agreement and that India will make all efforts for a solution. Mr. Dinesh Singh was replying to questions from newsmen on his arrival at Dhaka Airport today to attend the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] ministerial council meeting beginning tomorrow. He said it was agreed under Simla accord that all issues between India and Pakistan will be solved peacefully without any outside interference. The external affairs minister, who is likely to meet Pakistan Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ali Ahmad in Dhaka on Sunday [5 December], said India always wanted friendly relations with Pakistan.

Pakistani Hopes for More Cooperation

BK0412031593 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 4 Dec 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali has expressed the hope that the decisions made at the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SAARC] Council of Ministers meeting will reinforce this organization's efforts to boost mutual cooperation among its seven member states. He made these observations while talking to reporters upon his arrival in Dhaka to represent Pakistan at the SAARC Council of Ministers meeting. He said SAARC is a useful forum that is dealing with certain necessary problems and is making progress in its efforts.

Answering a question, Asif Ahmad Ali said that achieving nuclear capability is not India's exclusive right; Pakistan also reserves the full right to develop nuclear technology, and there is no question of Pakistan rolling back its nuclear program. He told reporters that Pakistan does not possess a nuclear weapon, nor does it intend to manufacture one. He emphasized that this is Pakistan's policy and is not designed to please any country.

Earlier, the foreign minister met United Arab Emirates [UAE] President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan in Abu Dhabi. They discussed matters of common interest and ways and means to strengthen bilateral ties further. They also exchanged views on matters relating to the upcoming Pakistan-UAE Joint Ministerial Commission meeting expected to be held in Abu Dhabi next month. Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali handed a written invitation from Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to the UAE president to make an official visit to Pakistan.

Bangladeshi Prime Minister Opens SAARC Meeting

BK0412133293 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1230 GMT 4 Dec 93

[Text] Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, addressing the 13th session of the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] Council of Ministers meeting in Dhaka today, called for the mapping of an action plan to accelerate regional cooperation. The two-day long session aims to review the progress of the programs taken up by the forum and to expedite their implementation. Zia, who is also the chairperson of the SAARC, inaugurated the ministerial conference at the International Conference Center. Zia, who outlined the background, formation, and the development of SAARC, also spoke about its future programs.

The foreign ministers of India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Maldives, Bhutan, and host Bangladesh also spoke at the inaugural function. The SAARC ministerial council comprises foreign ministers of member countries. The ministers emphasized the need to make this regional forum more dynamic. They also expressed satisfaction over its progress since its formation in 1985. The foreign minister of Bangladesh, A.S.M. Mustafizur Rahman, is the current chairman of the SAARC ministerial council.

Results of Session Reviewed

BK0512152493 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1430 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Text] The next SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit will be held either next November or December in India. This was stated by the Bangladesh foreign minister, Mustafizur Rahman, while talking to reporters this evening at the end of the two-day long 13th SAARC ministerial council meeting in Dhaka. He said that the council meeting has adopted a 13-point program aimed at accelerating the pace of cooperation between the member countries. The foreign minister said that the meeting was held in a cordial atmosphere. It has also been decided that the finance ministers of SAARC countries will meet in Dhaka before the next ministerial council meeting.

Mustafizur Rahman further said that an intergovernmental meeting of the SAPTA [South Asian Preferential Trade Agreement] aimed at expanding and liberalizing trade ties between the SAARC member countries will be held during the first half of next year in Islamabad. He also said that also discussed during the meeting were the upcoming visit of the Indian prime minister to Bangladesh early next year, the water-sharing problem, and the Chakma refugee problem. Mustafizur Rahman also gave a brief account of the efforts being made to examine the prospects of forging closer ties among the SAARC, the ASEAN [Association of Southeast Asian Nations], and the European Community. The ministerial council meeting also decided to appoint the foreign secretary of

Nepal, Mr. Yadav Kant Silwal, as the next secretary general of the SAARC for a period of two years. His term of office will begin in January next year. The Bangladesh foreign minister, who is also the chairman of the SAARC ministerial council, told reporters that the next council meeting will be held next July in Dhaka.

Indian, Pakistani Foreign Ministers Meet

BK0412154893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 4 Dec 93

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh, had a meeting with his Pakistani counterpart, Mr. Asif Ahmad Ali, this evening in Dhaka. This was the first meeting between the two foreign ministers. Talking to newsmen, Mr. Dinesh Singh said he was very happy to meet Mr. Ali. Asked about the possibility of a meeting between the two prime ministers, Mr. Dinesh Singh said the foreign secretaries are meeting early next month in Islamabad.

Pakistani Minister Comments

BK0512050693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali has described his talks with his Indian counterpart Dinesh Singh as useful. Bilateral problems, including the Kashmir issue, were discussed. The upcoming meeting of the foreign secretaries of the two countries was also discussed. After his talks with Dinesh Singh in Dhaka yesterday, the Pakistani foreign minister told reporters that there is no possibility of any talks with India on bilateral trade and economic issues as long as the political relationship between the two countries does not improve.

The Indian external affairs minister told reporters that he is optimistic about the upcoming India-Pakistan secretarial-level talks on resolving the Kashmir problem.

India's Singh Notes Satisfaction With SAARC Results

BK0512162593 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Text] India wants to settle all disputes with her neighbors through dialogue. This was stated by the external affairs minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh, while talking to newsmen at Dhaka before his departure for Delhi. The external affairs minister expressed satisfaction at the outcome of the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] ministerial meeting which ended in Dhaka today.

Earlier, Mr. Dinesh Singh held talks with his Bangladesh counterpart, Mr. Mustafizur Rahman, and expressed India's readiness to give Bangladesh its genuine share of Ganges water. The Bangladesh foreign minister apprised him of different measures taken by Dhaka to facilitate the return of the Chakma refugees. Mr. Dinesh Singh also had a meeting with the Sri Lankan foreign minister, A.C.S. Hameed, and discussed the Joint Economic Commission meeting at Delhi later this month. Mr. Hameed hinted Sri Lanka's intention to import spices from India and the possibility of joint ventures in tea and rubber exports. The Nepalese minister of state for finance, Mr. Mahesh Acharya, also called on Mr. Dinesh Singh this morning and discussed bilateral issues.

The next meeting of the foreign ministers of SAARC countries will be held in Dhaka in July next year. Official sources said the decision was taken at the 13th meeting of the foreign ministers which ended today. It was also decided that foreign ministers of SAARC countries will hold an informal meeting in New York in October next when the UN General Assembly will be in session.

Algeria

Chief of Oran Court Assassinated

LD0612132693 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic
1200 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Excerpt] Radio Algiers learned that the chief of Oran's court was assassinated today. Radio correspondent Hassan Ghanmi has more details:

[Ghanmi] It was learned this morning from the public prosecution of Oran's judicial council that (Rouaz Lakh-dar), chief of Oran's court, was assassinated while preparing to leave home for his place of work at about 0745.

According to the same source, the victim is 45 years old and lived at Badr suburb in Oran. We have been unable to obtain more final details about the incident from the public prosecution which refused to make [statements] because of incomplete information. [passage omitted]

'Extremist' Kidnapper Killed in Shoot-Out

NC0612164293 Paris AFP in English 1618 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] ALGIERS, Dec 6 (AFP) - An Algerian extremist wanted for the kidnapping of three French consular workers in October was killed in a shootout in central Algiers on Monday, police said.

Mohammed Guezmir, 24, was killed in the afternoon gunbattle near the central police station, police said.

No further details were immediately available.

Guezmir was one of the prime suspects in the kidnapping on October 24 of three French diplomats, who were freed by security forces at the end of that month.

One of the three, Michele Thevenot, had been given a message from the Armed Islamic Group (GIA) movement warning foreigners that they had a month to leave the country or "face sudden death."

Two foreigners, a Russian woman and a Spanish man, have been killed since that ultimatum expired at midnight on November 30, while an Italian businessman was wounded in an attack here on Saturday.

Security Forces Kill 1; 3 Killed by Kidnappers

LD0612181793 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic
1700 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] The security services today said in a statement that they killed an armed person and recovered a sawed-off shotgun found on him during a search operation in the Casba quarter in Algiers on 5 December. The statement added that 18 armed people have been arrested this week in Tiaret and Ain Defla on charges of supporting armed groups.

The security services also said that five people had been kidnapped between 3 and 5 December in Blida province and that the bodies of three of them were found, killed by their kidnappers.

Energy Minister Receives OPEC Head's Message

LD0512231993 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic
2200 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Excerpts] Energy Minister Ahmed Benbitour yesterday received a message from 'Abdallah Bin-Hamad al-'Attiyah, the current OPEC president and the Qatari minister. The message deals with ways of bolstering energy cooperation, particularly between the two countries in the shadow of the oil prices collapse to \$13.85 per barrel. In the face of this situation, consultations are taking place to hold an emergency meeting of OPEC, the organization which last November kept the current ceiling level of production. Recently, the OPEC president stated that the meeting would be held if Iraq rejoined the organization. [passage omitted]

In any case, Algeria, which called for a reduction in the OPEC ceiling production level, would suffer heavy losses as a result of the fall in prices, a loss of \$500 million annually, according to experts.

Egypt

Media Views Christopher Visit to Middle East

Visit Shows 'Commitment to Peace'

NC0612173093 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio
Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Commentary by Mahmud Marzuq: "Christopher's Tour: Expanding the Peace"]

[Text] Despite varying conjecture about the prospects of future coexistence in the Middle East, it is certain that the region is moving toward a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. This is the product of all current international and regional developments. Current efforts show a desire to expand the area of the peace by attempting to conclude agreements between Syria and Israel and Lebanon and Israel. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's regional tour underlines this intention. The tour has special significance because it illustrates the policy of U.S. President Bill Clinton's administration on the Middle East peace operation. The U.S. Administration is seeking to maintain the peace momentum in line with the understanding that the United States is a full partner in the process. Christopher's tour is also significant because of the new ideas and proposals he is bringing, including one pertaining to a gradual Israeli withdrawal from the Syrian Golan Heights in return for an incremental normalization of Syrian-Israeli relations. Another proposal is to hold a preliminary agreement between the two countries prior

to the next round of bilateral negotiations in Washington. A date for these talks is expected to be announced following the U.S. secretary of state's tour.

Perhaps there are signs that this tour will have promising results in reactivating the bilateral talks on the various tracks. This promising aspect is seen in the following activities and positions. First, the U.S. secretary of state's current tour focuses on two issues: surmounting the hurdles on the Palestinian-Israeli track prior to signing an agreement over the beginning of the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho on 13 December, and creating an atmosphere conducive to the resumption of the Syrian-Israeli talks via the ideas and proposals carried by the U.S. official.

Also, the Arab region, particularly Egypt, has recently been the scene of intensive meetings and consultations, including Egyptian-Syrian, Egyptian-Jordanian, Egyptian-Palestinian, Jordanian-Syrian, and Syrian-Lebanese summits. These meetings were devoted to bolstering the peace process, giving it further momentum, and acting as back-up for the U.S. secretary of state's visit to the region.

Second, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin recently made a statement acknowledging the strategic importance of signing a peace treaty with Syria and saying he is ready to withdraw Israeli forces from Lebanon six months after the Lebanese Army takes control of the south and after resistance operations against Israel are halted. This statement is very significant, reflecting what we may describe as a fundamental transformation of the Israeli concept of territory-linked security. This happened after the intifadah inside the occupied territories and national resistance operations against the Israeli occupation forces in south Lebanon successfully undermined the Israeli security concept.

Third, perhaps the changes on the world scene, notably the end of the Cold War, the USSR's collapse, the restructuring of the world order, the Gulf war and its concurrent events in this region have set forth new axioms that have fundamentally altered erstwhile Israeli concepts about its strategic regional role.

All these facts, comprising the backdrop against which the peace process is unfolding, underline the U.S. commitment to peace illustrated by Christopher's current visit to the Middle East and the proposals that it will bring aiming to end the peace operation's current deadlock and pave the way for its revival in line with the peace principles as set forth in Madrid. These principles seek to implement the relevant, legitimate UN resolutions and the land-for-peace formula.

Visit Expected To Remove 'Obstacles'

NC0512065693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0605 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, 5 Dec (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AHRAM today carries a commentary saying that the

conclusion of a Syrian-Israeli agreement would create a faster momentum toward achieving similar agreements between Israel, on one hand, and Lebanon and Jordan, on the other. A Syrian-Israeli agreement, the paper adds, would also create a healthy atmosphere for the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement between Israel and the PLO.

The paper notes that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will begin a visit to Damascus today in a mission that leads us to expect the removal of the obstacles facing the achievement of a comprehensive Arab-Israeli settlement.

The paper refers to a White House statement to the effect that President Bill Clinton wishes to see the peace efforts resumed and progress achieved on all tracks, particularly the Syrian track. The paper recalls that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad sent a cable to President Clinton expressing Syria's readiness to reach peace with Israel in exchange for the latter's full withdrawal from the Golan.

U.S. Resolution on Arab Boycott Termed 'Biased'

NC0312132693 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 23 Nov 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Two Different Resolutions on One Issue"]

[Text] Two resolutions were passed yesterday on the Arab boycott of Israel, one in Washington and the other in Cairo. Each identifies the position of the party that issued it and reflects its convictions and interests.

The Washington resolution, passed by the U.S. House of Representatives with 542 votes for and one against, condemns the Arab boycott of Israel and describes it, unfortunately, as an obstacle to peace in the Middle East. It urges the Arab League and the U.S. Government to work toward ending the direct boycott of Israel and the resulting boycott of companies with trade links with Israel.

The resolution issued in Cairo was passed by the Arab League Council during an emergency meeting of permanent representatives. In a semi-unanimous vote, the Council stated that the reasons for the over-40-year Arab boycott of Israel remain, so the Council believes that the boycott should continue until the reasons no longer exist. The Council set out conditions for ending the Arab boycott of Israel, namely, the completion of the Israeli withdrawal from the remaining occupied Arab territories and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

We support the Arab resolution and believe the U.S. resolution was wrong.

1. The Arabs and Israel are now engaged in heated negotiations over restoring the usurped Arab rights, that is, the occupied Arab territories. This battle has gone on for over two years since the Madrid conference, but no conclusive results have been achieved. Regardless of how

ineffective the Arab boycott of Israel is said to be, it remains an important negotiating card in the hands of the Arabs, especially as we live in an age where guns have taken a back seat to economy in measuring the balance of power. Thus, it is not fair to deprive the Arabs of this important card before they regain their full rights.

2. The U.S. House of Representatives' resolution shows complete bias toward Israel; we wish this had not been the case, because the United States is a full international partner in the peace talks, along with the Arabs and Israel. It is not in the interest of negotiations for the United States to side with this or that party. The U.S. House of Representatives' resolution makes the United States biased to one side rather than neutral.

3. For the U.S. House of Representatives' resolution to be balanced, we wish it had also condemned Israel's occupation of the Arab territories and demanded Israel's speedy, full, and unconditional withdrawal from them.

4. We believe the Arab resolution was more realistic and reasonable in that it did not altogether reject ending the boycott of Israel. It made terminating the boycott conditional on Israel's compliance with the international will, its withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, and its recognition of a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. This means that we the Arabs agree to end the boycott, but not immediately. We agree to do so as part of the peace process. If Israel accepts and implements the principle of land for peace, we the Arabs will not delay in ending the boycott. If Israel agrees to an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital, we the Arabs will be ready to end the boycott without delay.

5. The United States has tried to pamper Israel with military and economic aid, but to no avail. It is high time America stopped pampering Israel and pressuring the Arabs.

Rabin's Objection to U.S. Mediation Criticized

NC0512071293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0602 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, 5 Dec (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR describes Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's objection to any U.S. intervention to mediate the Middle East peace talks as an odd and abnormal stand because Rabin is aware of the extent of the efforts in this regard that the United States has made during the last two years.

The paper notes in its editorial today that Rabin knows that U.S. mediation is meant to overcome any difficulties that arise during the talks between Israel and any of the three Arab delegations: the Palestinians, the Syrians, or the Lebanese.

The paper says that Rabin is also aware that the U.S. Administration has always stressed that it is undertaking this mediation in its capacity as a full partner in the peace process. Therefore, Rabin's objection to the U.S.

role as a mediator in the talks is meaningless, especially if he takes into account the U.S. financial, military, and economic aid to Israel.

AL-AKHBAR adds: It is surprising that, at a time when the peace process is slowing as a result of the intransigent Israeli stance, Rabin is demanding a reward from Europe in return for the sole agreement on Gaza and Jericho, particularly since the steps to implement it collide daily with new obstacles, which Rabin refuses to let the United States mediate to overcome.

Shat'h Briefs Musa on Palestinian-Israeli Talks

NC0512192693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1845 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, 5 Dec (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met this evening with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, chairman of the Palestinian delegation to the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations.

Following the meeting, Sha'th stated that he had briefed Musa on the details of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho as well as on the outcome of the meetings of the Fatah Central Committee held in Tunis over the past three days.

We are working seriously to conclude negotiations on time, Dr. Sha'th said, adding: We need Egyptian support and intervention, particularly on the points where we found difficulty in reaching agreement, namely control of crossing points and the size of the Jericho region.

Nabil Sha'th added that Minister Musa is fully informed on the Palestinian position. He expressed the hope that negotiations will be concluded on schedule and that the agreement will be signed in Cairo.

The Palestinian official pointed out that the al-Arish committee has made considerable progress in terms of the transfer of authority and that no difficulties are being encountered in this connection. As for the Cairo committee, particularly in terms of security issues, the Israelis have not advanced one step, he said. He added that progress is very slight on the issue of crossing points. These are the subjects on which Egyptian pressure is needed, he said.

Dr. Sha'th underlined the need for an Israeli decision to withdraw on time, noting that Jericho's boundaries are clear.

Touching on the growing violence in the occupied territories, Sha'th noted that it is largely Israel's fault. He explained that the Israeli settlers fire at Palestinians, destroy their homes, and burn their cars. He noted that Israel has no actual desire to put an end to the settlers' violence and lack of discipline.

Sha'th added that the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations will continue until Thursday [9 December] and that they will be intensive. He noted that the task of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is primarily to push forward

the Syrian-Israeli negotiations. He reiterated that the Palestinians support the efforts to make progress along that track and want Israel to commit itself to a withdrawal from Golan and Lebanon.

U.S. Official Confers with Musa on Somalia

NC0512200393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1935 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, 5 Dec (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met here tonight with David Shane, U.S. envoy to Somalia [name and title as received], who arrived in Cairo today.

Shane said after the meeting that the talks dealt with the developments in Somalia and the outcome of the contacts he has had with the Somali factions in Addis Ababa. He said that the Somali factions will continue their meetings in Addis Ababa in an attempt to work out a national reconciliation.

The U.S. envoy expressed the hope that the Somali factions will achieve an agreement, noting that the responsibility for resolving the problem should be shouldered by the Somalis themselves.

Plan Proposed To Solve Lockerbie Crisis

NC0312193293 Bshamun Future Television Network in 1800 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] An informed Egyptian source has disclosed to Future Television an Egyptian plan to resolve the Lockerbie crisis. The plan provides for bringing the entire Scottish court to a third country to try the two Libyans. Future Television has learned from an informed Egyptian source that Cairo has submitted a proposal to London to resolve the problem of trying the two Libyan defendants in blowing up the Lockerbie airliner. The solution envisages trying the two Libyans before a Scottish court in a third country where the two Libyan defendants may stand trial. The third country may be under British rule, such as Gibraltar.

Washington has been notified of the Egyptian proposal. The same source told Future Television that Washington is not opposed to any position acceptable to Britain. The source said that Tunis is working in coordination with Cairo to convince France on this solution, which may end the blockade on Libya.

Tunisian Prime Minister Arrives for Talks

NC0612163093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1550 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, 6 Dec (MENA)—Tunisian Prime Minister Hamed Karoui arrived in Cairo this evening and was received by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi. He was accorded an official reception. The Tunisian and Egyptian national anthems were played and the two prime ministers reviewed an honor guard.

Meets With Mubarak

NC0712073293 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has received a telephone call from Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. The two presidents exchanged views about the issues that will be addressed at the OAU minisummit and a number of issues of mutual interest.

Information Minister Returns From Paris Visit

NC0412083093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2245 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, 3 Dec (MENA)—[Information Minister] Safwat al-Sharif returned to Cairo from Paris tonight after a four-day visit to France during which he signed several media agreements with that country.

In an arrival statement, he said he held many meetings during which Egypt's domestic and foreign policies were explained and its future moves with all other media were discussed.

He added that an agreement was also signed licensing the Egyptian Space Channel to be received in France.

He said he held talks with French officials on a number of projects, most importantly the television production city in the 6 October City, its requirements of modern technical equipment, and defining the phases of the project. He added that an agreement was reached on a project for providing technical services via radio communications. An agreement was also reached with (Aero-spatiale) to build an Egyptian satellite—the Nilesat—for use by specialized Arab channels, especially in the areas of management and economic feasibility.

Ukrainian Diplomat on Relations, Nuclear Weapons

NC0612222693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1325 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, 6 Dec (MENA)—Viktor Nahaychuk, Ukraine's first charge d'affaires in Cairo, has praised the relations between Egypt and Ukraine. He added that his country chose Egypt to be the first country in the region to open an embassy, noting that Ukraine views Egypt as the most important country in the Middle East and the most politically and economically influential.

In an interview with MENA today, Nahaychuk noted that his country's economic interests in and major cooperation with Egypt go back to the time when Ukraine was part of the former Soviet Union. The Ukrainian charge d'affaires added that solid foundations already exist to expand and promote trade and economic relations between the two countries.

Nahaychuk pointed out that his country, which had agreed to ratify the START I agreement on the reduction and control of strategic offensive weapons, has some

reservations on this agreement. He said that there is a vacuum in areas of Eastern and Central Europe and, therefore, his country wants to establish a security system that could cooperate with NATO. He noted that Ukraine is convinced that collective security among the region's countries could provide security for each country.

On the elimination of Ukraine's nuclear weapons, Nahaychuk said that controlling the operation of the nuclear reactors and the strategic nuclear weapons in Ukraine is done in Moscow, not in Kiev. He added: The elimination of nuclear weapons is one of our foreign policy priorities, as we have been saying since 1990, but this will cost us approximately \$4 billion, a sum that we cannot afford to pay to get rid of the nuclear weapons we have.

The Ukrainian charge d'affaires noted that his country feels threatened by Russia, which during the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe requested to use its forces to maintain peace and carry out military operations within the CIS member states, the victims of the former Soviet Union. He pointed out that Ukraine is in urgent need of guarantees, either through international or bilateral agreements, as well as financial and economic aid to implement the START I agreement. He noted that during Secretary of State Warren Christopher's recent visit to Kiev, his country had obtained promises from the United States to receive approximately \$300 million. He noted that Germany and Japan also had made similar promises, but in lesser amounts. Nahaychuk noted that his country has given tactical weapons worth \$1 billion to Russia, but it has not received any financial compensation for them.

On the problem of the Black Sea warships, which represent the naval fleet of the former Soviet Union, the Ukrainian charge d'affaires in Cairo noted that negotiations between Russia and Ukraine led to splitting up the fleet between the two. He pointed out that Russia is exerting pressure to get hold of the entire fleet in exchange for the debts Ukraine owes to Russia, which amount to \$4 billion. He noted that this sum is insignificant compared to the magnitude of this fleet. He added that Russia also wants to get hold of the naval bases in the Crimea, which are within Ukrainian territory. He emphasized that his country cannot accept such a request.

Concluding his remarks, Nahaychuk stressed that Ukraine wants peace and stability in the region.

Suspects in Sidqi Attack Make Confessions

NC0612182693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1725 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, 6 Dec (MENA)—The Higher State Security Prosecutor's Office continued its investigations of the unsuccessful attempt on Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi's life today. It interrogated the suspects about the offenses

of which they are accused, including criminal conspiracy, premeditated murder, attempted murder, possession of firearms, explosives, and ammunition without license to use them in activities undermining the country's security and public order, damaging private property, and several counts of forgery.

The suspects made detailed confessions about their membership in the armed terrorist organization, the Vanguard of Conquest, which has occasionally planned the assassination of some political figures. They admitted that during the period immediately preceding the attempted assassination, they were in constant touch with their leaders abroad, particularly in Afghanistan.

The suspects confessed that before the unsuccessful assassination attempt, they carried out surveillance of Dr. Sidqi's moves, using maps and sketches.

The suspects also confessed to possession of firearms, explosives, and ammunition. These materials were found in their hideouts in Cairo, al-Jizah, al-Minufiyah, and al-Qalyubiyah Governorates. They admitted that they had used them in carrying out certain crimes and in bombing some installations.

Prosecutors will continue their investigations over the next few days and will interview some witnesses.

Al-Baz Comments on Terrorism, Mideast Market

NC0512085593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0653 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, 5 Dec (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has revealed that certain international quarters and Arab figures are involved in the terrorist incidents perpetrated in Egypt and the Islamic world.

In an interview with the weekly magazine ROSE AL-YUSUF, which will appear tomorrow, Monday [6 December], al-Baz said that all political forces in the country are entitled to hold a dialogue through which they may contribute views, studies, and research to help shape the general national response to various issues.

Dr. al-Baz declared that any Islamic group that accepts the Constitution, abides by the law, does not resort to violence, and does not advocate the use of violence as way to resolve differences over practical or doctrinal matters, is eligible to participate in the national dialogue.

The state has the right to refuse to open dialogue with outlaw groups, because it sees this as a useless endeavor, al-Baz stated. He added, however, that if other sides wish to conduct such a dialogue, the state will not veto such a decision.

Dr. al-Baz said that democracy is a right for all. The state is not trying to impose its opinion on anyone. The leadership is committed to the democratic course, he added.

Answering a question about the establishment of a Middle East market, al-Baz said that we will not go along with any plan for economic cooperation in the region that is designed by non-Arabs; that is, by Israel or anyone else. Any such scheme can only come from an Arab perspective. What is important for us is to see regional cooperation started among Arab countries.

Dr. al-Baz said that it would not be right to restrict ourselves to the concept of a Middle East market that has been presented so far. He said that Egypt, through dialogue, is trying to formulate its own view of regional and economic cooperation in the Middle East.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Meeting of Intellectuals

LD0412114693

[Editorial Report] Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic at 1943 GMT on 3 December broadcasts a 97-minute program on a meeting between Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and writers, men of literature, poets, artists, and journalists on 2 December.

Most of the program consists of the audience welcoming and pledging support to al-Qadhdhafi, expressing the support of Libyan writers and poets for the principles of the revolution, condemning the West's "conspiracies" and the so-called new world order, and condemning the UN embargo against Libya. One journalist praises al-Qadhdhafi's role in carrying out all the major changes and reforms in Libya at a time when others in the West are conspiring against Libya and fanning the flames of war and conflict in the war. He pledges the journalists' support for al-Qadhdhafi and predicts more victories.

The program concludes with a six-minute address by al-Qadhdhafi, who begins by thanking the participants for inviting him to the meeting. He expresses his appreciation of their choice of venue, which he identifies as the residence of 'Ali al-Misrati. He recalls a story told to him by late Egyptian President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir about a visit he paid to Alexandria where he was offered hospitality by some wealthy people which he accepted out of politeness. He was later approached by some people who criticized him for appearing to favor the wealthy. Al-Qadhdhafi says that the venue for his meeting with writers and journalists is appropriate because 'Ali al-Misrati was a struggler known for his ideas, writings, patriotism, and radicalism.

Al-Qadhdhafi says that the gathering of writers, journalists, and intellectuals is indicative of the Libyan people's determination, and proof that what is taking place in Libya is not just the doing of schoolchildren and enthusiastic youths. People have no choice but to take the Libyan people's current movement seriously as a rational and responsible movement in which all strata of the Libyan people are taking part.

Further on Speech

LD0512122293 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1943 GMT 4 Dec 93

[Second part of speech by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to intellectuals and writers on 2 December—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God. Good evening. First of all I would like to say that I fully appreciate this invitation and this initiative by the writers, men of letters, artists, intellectuals, and journalists. I greet this noble gathering. [passage omitted]

The fact that writers, intellectuals, men of letters, and journalists have accepted the invitation and decided to meet tonight is of a great significance, which indicates our people's resolve. As a matter of fact, it raises the struggle fever in every limb. With such a meeting nobody can say that in Libya only students and enthusiastic youth and some tribes are voicing their rejection of the sanctions. Nobody can talk about us from this angle at all. They have no alternative but to treat seriously the current movement of the Libyan people, and consider it to be intelligent and responsible, and that all factions and sectors of the people here are raising the banner of defiance and getting ready for the confrontation. [passage omitted]

Tonight's meeting reaffirms the message addressed by the Libyan people to the Western powers, and at the pan-Arab level it benefits the peoples of the Arab nation. I regret to say that there has been a setback that has helped the rulers to continue along the path of compromise and heralding the news of defeat; there is a setback for the masses. For example, if a foreign minister in the past happened to be in occupied Palestine he would not have been able to directly visit an Arab country after that. It was impossible. The masses would have crushed him in the streets. The Syrian people once demonstrated against the passage of an airliner in Syrian airspace carrying an American...[pauses] carrying a British national after the tripartite [1956] aggression. The matter concerned only the passage of an airliner in the airspace, but the people asked how the Syrian Government could give permission to an airliner carrying that Englishman whose state attacked Egypt. [passage omitted]

The Saudis have not been able to sweep tissues that the Americans and the British used when they came to the Arabian peninsula from Mecca, Medina, and every holy place even if the latter was remote because the wind brought them to these areas. Most of the time spent sweeping was taken up by getting rid of fruit peels, tissues, and food the Americans and the British threw away. These found their way into Mecca and Medina. What I want to say is that there is actually a setback in the street, I regret to say. Once at an Arab summit I quarreled with a group of kings and I spoke in the name of the masses, but they said to me: No, you are working against the masses. Two Arab kings said that; one of

them has since died and the other is waiting. [Al-Qadhdhafi laughs; audience laughs and applauds; this refers to a passage from the Koran: "Among the believers are men who were true to their covenant with God; some of them have fulfilled their vow by death and some are still waiting"]

They said to me: You are working against the masses. How, I asked. They said: The masses have surrendered while you do not want surrender. By God, this is what they said. I said to King Hassan II: The people follow their kings. He said: No, on the contrary; the kings follow their people. If I see people wanting to surrender I will follow them. The kings said to me: The people have surrendered while you are instigating resistance. You alone want the resistance; the masses do not want it. The masses want surrender, the kings said. They want America, while you alone are against America. This is what they said to me. Naturally they said this with much gloating over the masses and the Arab citizen, and against the latter's dignity and sacrifices. This is because the citizen is the one who has sacrificed and died for the sake of dignity, independence, and freedom. Therefore, as long as that was their feeling they believed that the masses did not object to surrender because the masses have surrendered. This was their conclusion from what is going on in the Arab world. Naturally that was serious. They said they could organize a referendum and succeed in it: If you want recognition of Israel then we conduct a referendum among our people and tell them to recognize Israel. As a matter of fact, we now have a serious gamble and a very bad prediction because they now believe that even a referendum could lead to an Arab people allowing its government to recognize what is called Israel.

These resigned, helpless, or desperate peoples are these days in dire need of what is going on in Libya. This is a new development. This is not only useful to raise the morale of the Libyans and send strong messages to the enemies that this people are resisting and that they should not think that it is about to welcome them and surrender to them. It is also useful to the Arab nation as it revives in it the spirit of defiance and resistance because there are people who think that it is all over. In that case, let us compile a new dictionary in which the word surrender means something positive and which says that it is better for us to be slaves than free men, that colonialism is better than independence, and that enslavement is a form of freedom. Why not? People have been told that socialism is wrong and shameful and that they should not talk about socialism any more.

This is what people are being told and what others are trying to convince them. They are also being told that progressiveness is reactionary. Now the communists are being called reactionaries. Can you believe that a U.S. president—I think it is Nixon who wrote a book called (*The Last Chance*)—has actually said that al-Qadhdhafi is one of the reactionaries? [laughter] He said that al-Qadhdhafi is one of the reactionaries. Can you imagine: The revolution has become a reactionary movement. They believe that such things are past and that

maybe they are wrong, shameful, or useless. They want to convince the world of this.

As a result, this climate has caused an atmosphere of capitulation on Arab streets; hence, the need for what is taking place in Libya now. [Someone in audience interrupts to quote Nixon's book] Naturally, he is saying that these people are fighting us, are fighting progressiveness, and are fighting the free world. He meant that anyone who fights America is a reactionary. In his opinion America belongs to the free world and anyone who fights it is a reactionary. By the same token, they are saying that anyone who fights the West and capitalism is a reactionary because this person does not like capitalism and wants to return to socialism and revolutionary ideas. They regard these ideas as obsolete. For them, the time for revolution and socialism has passed. This is a shameful distortion of facts.

People may be deceived by this, and the latter may little by little grow like a disease. Diseases are not nice but they can be resisted and people can be cured. If you leave people without treatment, however, the disease will continue. What is taking place now is a disease that needs treatment; one should be cured from this. What is being done by the Libyan people today is a kind of treatment for the Arab nation and for all people; it is a determination to be cured from this disease. Proof of this lies in the fact that yesterday allied forces led by America landed in Somalia where there is neither a government nor an army, where the country is totally isolated. Those who saw the landing of amphibious craft from the fleet and the aircraft would have said that this was a new intimidation that could not be confronted—who can stand against this war machine? Somalia has finished. The Somalis said: No. The Security Council adopted a resolution that said that Somalia had come under the control of what is meant to be America—this is the real meaning, America—and anyone should submit to this control. Anyone who does not submit will be considered as having opposed the government; anyone who resists would be considered as having resisted the government. They considered Aidid someone who resisted a government that placed its hand on Somalia, and therefore he should stand trial. That was the Security Council resolution. [passage omitted] Such words were not believed by the Somali people, nor by Aidid, nor by all the strugglers in Somalia. They said: This is colonialism and our voice should be heard. They said: Thanks to God we have some people who support us and speak on our behalf.

In the end, this United Nations and the Security Council... [pauses] following the downing of a number of American aircraft and the killing and taking prisoner of a number of American soldiers by the Somalis, and massacred Somali [as heard] soldiers—naturally this is an Islamic state and worked against an Islamic state—and after this strong resistance the Americans are not prepared to lose men or equipment. They only want to triumph; they are arrogant. [passage omitted] We should show that the West, and particularly America, is a

terrorist and not an occupation force. It cannot occupy the world, but it can terrorize it. Terrorism defeats the cowards. The weak-hearted are the ones who when terrorized show fear, but the brave nations and peoples and the courageous man are not intimidated by terrorism. It is impossible for America to constitute an occupation force. From the materialistic point of view it cannot be so.

America can, in agreement with a ruler, build military bases, impose its domination, and take oil. It can also install a government under its control, as it has done in a number of countries, Arab and non-Arab alike, to take their resources and put these countries under its protection. However, America cannot impose its will on a people which is armed and which fights it. It is impossible. [revolutionary chants and poems]

These Western powers, particularly America, as I have said, followed by Britain, cannot occupy the land of a people who resist. The Americans are anxious that none of them dies but this is inevitable. How can anyone occupy somebody's land and not expect to get killed? This does not make sense. They would like to take other people's resources and enslave the people but they do not want to see any of their own people killed. They are very sensitive to the death of any U.S. soldier. They have had a very important experience in Vietnam. They were determined to stay in Vietnam, which they considered an important strategic position from which to prevent the spread of communism to other parts of the world because they thought that it would move from Vietnam to take over Asia, Africa, and Latin America and then the United States of America would be encircled with red. They were also determined to win in Vietnam and as a result they deployed all their efforts, but when they lost they retreated. They were coming under pressure. Clinton, who is now America's President, used to lead demonstrations in Britain against the war in Vietnam. This is one of the things that leads us to say that maybe he is better than others and that we should give him a chance because we respect any American who led or took part in a demonstration against the war in Vietnam.

Can you imagine: The other camp, that of the Republicans, considered this as one of Clinton's negative points. They attacked him with it in the elections and told him: You were against the war in Vietnam. So, is it a crime when someone is against the war in Vietnam?

Nevertheless, the American people gave him their vote and he succeeded. This means that he is against war. They are sensitive concerning losses. When an enemy comes to a land, attacks a people, violates their dignity, hits their livelihood, and threatens their life, then these people no longer think of what and how much they have to sacrifice. They become angry and pay without limit. [passage omitted] This colonizing Western capitalist thinks: How much do I have to pay? This we should understand well so that we know our adversaries. Their mouths water when they see a project or a company working in Libya—an oil company working in Libya, or

workers who are exported to Libya, or goods sold in the Libyan market or in the markets of these peoples. They guard these. [passage omitted]

The other matter that concerns us is that the issue will not be dangerous if we can fight the political, economic, and military battle with awareness. We will inevitably triumph, but this depends on our awareness. Awareness requires an effort on your part by making the people aware.

This is the way of life that this Western capitalist, colonialist merchant, this usurer, and this world broker has used to ensnare the world and the peoples, particularly those who have oil and other resources. This was a prelude to a policy aimed at wrecking the world, weakening it, and breaking the resolve of these peoples so that when he puts pressure on them one day they will fall to their knees. He believes that the peoples who have oil... [pauses] naturally the most important thing is oil. They now want to take possession of energy sources wherever they are found in the world. Once I asked—I cannot remember where exactly—why they did not build military bases in 1954 in Lebanon, Jordan, or Mauritania or anywhere else. There were many countries where they could have built their bases but they did not. Why did they build them in Libya, which was a poor barren country in 1954? Because they knew there was oil in it. Now there are bases in Bahrain, or the Gulf, the Arabian Peninsula, and in the deadly and barren desert because there is oil. They do not have any bases anywhere else. They leave the places that have no oil. When they could not benefit from the Philippines, they withdrew, and when there was resistance they withdrew [as heard].

They would like to control the areas that have energy sources, especially oil. They might have even thought about solar energy for the future because solar energy itself can pose a threat. Maybe one day they will occupy regions where they know solar energy will be exploited.

We did not know why they occupied us in 1954. How could they occupy us after we became independent? They talked about independence, and how could foreign troops then come to our country? We talk about independence when foreign troops leave; only then can we say the country is independent. We were told: You are now independent. Then they brought in foreign troops to occupy us. We did not know why. The fact was that there was oil. They knew that, but we did not. We are not familiar with solar energy and we consider it as a fantasy. They know, however, that in a few years time it might become just like oil. Then they will decide to occupy the regions where solar energy is exploited. [passage omitted]

When they make each family need more than one or two cars... [pauses] each individual should have a car. This is to get us accustomed to something until that something becomes necessary. They have destroyed food in all the countries they have colonized and are still colonizing as well as the countries they have planned to colonize—the

oil-producing countries. They have destroyed our original food; they have destroyed our clothing as that industry now follows their fashions. They work according to the logic of a merchant—how to maintain this market for them always, and how to spoil the habits of the people so that they use their products. If we were not aware and if we had the money then we would unknowingly respond to this plan. [indistinct comment from audience] Yes, exactly. They have made us used to some things. They pin their hopes on the assumption that one day the arrival in the Libyan household or in the oil-producing countries of cars or video recorders or cans of food or some types of drink, food, and clothing will stop. [passage omitted] This is a very dangerous colonialist method to be used one day as a prelude for when they want to blockade us. We will then go down on our knees. [passage omitted] Their defeat as a matter of fact depends on our awareness. [passage omitted]

We should make concerted efforts to change the Libyan diet. Food should go back to what it used to be; it was healthy and we did not need to import from abroad. Libyan equipment and clothing should go back to what they used to be. We should put an end to fashion and the fact that we run after their fashions. All these things require awareness; they require education. As far as I am concerned anything we manufacture from dates, for example, will meet all our needs for deserts and sweets. [passage omitted]

If we have any conscience, then we can change the way of life they have imposed on us. It is dangerous to get used to the way of life and luxuries that are not suitable for us. [passage omitted including indistinct portion]

Ultimately, I do not fear for Libyans because they are rich and they have plenty of clothes which are sufficient for them if we come under siege. We are not under siege now. However, if we come under siege for years, Libyans will have to go back to their closets and use the clothes they have. There is no need for them to worry. [passage omitted]

I am not worried about the use of cars, even if we cannot get cars. If they impose a siege on us for years, there may be no spare parts and no cars; there may be one car for each family. I am confident that we will value them more and cars will be used when necessary. [passage indistinct]

The aim of such resolutions is therefore to make Libya pay a price. Libya is today paying a price because of such resolutions. Let us just count those people who have been killed in accidents, those who have died for lack of medical care, the cases of sick people who are being prevented from traveling abroad by air, and the scarcity of medical equipment and other things which used to come by air, like food and other imports. Also, their decision to prevent Libya from obtaining spare parts, particularly spare parts for aircraft, which resulted in the crash of an aircraft with 157 people aboard. Were all these resolutions passed in order to punish Libya? [passage indistinct]

The other hypothesis could be that Libya had nothing to do with Lockerbie. Then how can you explain the number of sanctions which have been imposed on a country which has yet to be indicted? Sanctions are an indictment per se. Therefore, what stance should we adopt toward them? They are provocative measures; they should make every one of us angry. One should ask: How come we have been paying a price for something which has not yet been proven in a court of law? This is a punishment and not a request to try us.

Nevertheless, if the aim was really a trial they should be flexible and accept that the trial could be held anywhere. That is, of course, if they really wanted a trial that would allow the truth to emerge. They have the right to lay down the conditions for a fair and impartial trial with which they would be happy. Let them spell out their conditions for an impartial trial at which the accused would stand. It is they who should be flexible and accept that the trial can take place anywhere, if they are really serious about holding a trial. This should be borne in mind by each one of us because it will create a psychological attitude in every Libyan toward this problem and toward the adversary. You sometimes feel that you should fight the adversary with such vehemence because you feel that he is being unjust and tyrannical, and therefore you do not care how much you might pay in order to make him suffer.

All these questions should be remembered by all of us. But what if it became clear that Libya had nothing to do with Lockerbie; how would we then feel about all those measures which have been taken against us? If it were a colonialist issue, for example to suppress people and eliminate all resistance from the face of earth, it would then be a different issue with a different direction. So is it then merely a pretext and empty words? Wasn't your real aim to control the world and suppress peoples? Is it because we are the only ones who are resisting that you are bringing such pressures to bear upon us? Well, if it is like this then we are going to resist you.

They should believe and we should convince ourselves that the confrontation will take place. It should be they who should try to avoid it. The moment might come when we seek a confrontation and which they might try to avoid. We might say that we are going to be better off with a confrontation as we know that they are going to lose it.

It is like a businessman who takes risks. We should try to draw him into a hopeless venture; we should provoke him into it. Once he knows it is a hopeless venture he will start to avoid it, he will leave the market. [passage omitted]

I can assure you that all their stances have been wrong. They were telling us yesterday that contacts with the IRA are the worst crimes ever; they used to tell us it is a terrorist organization and there should be no contact or negotiations with the terrorists. When Libya was in contact with the IRA, her majesty's government was

secretly negotiating with it; it has become public now. Didn't you tell us not to negotiate with terrorists and that there must never be contacts or negotiations with terrorists? You made the IRA the number one terrorist organization. How could you blame us and not blame yourselves? When we were making secret contacts with the IRA, they were doing the same in secret. Well, we were equal in that, were we not? Look, they were barring us from contacts with the IRA for other reasons; they were doing so within the framework of colonialism and the suppression of peoples. Now they have given, following their recent announcement, a justification for contacts with the IRA; anyone is free to do so. They contact whomever they want and we contact whomever we want.

For example, the one who wrote *Satanic Verses*; my brothers, the British had a meeting with him [Rushdie] before his meeting in America, and prior to that he had a meeting with someone else, I do not know who. Do they meet every writer who is creative or has done something of note? Or do they just meet Rushdie? Lincoln or whatever his name is; the one who wrote *The Outsider*. Colin Wilson. Why did they not meet him? Why did the U.S. President not invite him and say to him: O Colin Wilson, come; your book, *The Outsider*, is controversial, and I do not know what; it is serious and so on.

The philosophers who are in the West. Why? Why? There are unique and creative people who have created unusual things, but they did not meet them. Why did they meet Rushdie? Is it because he said that Muhammad was not a prophet, that he was drunkard and debauched; that the noble family was not noble, and that those were the brothels of Mecca, that the Koran is a forgery; that Islam is not a religion? There is nothing more vile than what is in that book. I have read a summary of it, not the whole book.

All right, King Husayn, who says that he is a descendent of the Prophet and of the Hashemite family; they have portrayed him as a foundling [laqit] and [word indistinct] as a female foundling and that all of them are the product of a brothel. This is an insult, the greatest insult to the Hashemite family.

Mecca is not Mecca and Medina is not Medina, they are night clubs and brothels. The custodian of the two holy mosques does not have two holy mosques. [Word indistinct] King Fahd. This is not a holy place according to *Satanic Verses*. This is not a holy place, not a holy place. It is a brothel.

The ruler of the believers [amir al-mu'minin], poor King Hassan II, has been insulted. The ruler of the believers; who are the believers? Believers in what? Believers in what Rushdie said? Did he not say that all these are useless? Did he not say that one was not a prophet, that one was the Koran and so on? [sentence as heard]

Ruler of the believers! Believers in what? Is it not in these things? See how they have insulted the poor man. It is an insult to the protector of the two holy mosques, the

custodian of the two holy mosques, the ruler of the believers, His Majesty King Husayn on the Hashemite throne and the Hashemite family—the noble prophet's descendents. [passage omitted]

The West has said that the confrontation with communism has ended and that the confrontation is now with Islam. The confrontation with Islam is not through covert action, bombs, and killing. No, it is aimed against the revival of a nation, a nation that believes. What is the point of killing someone? It is not worth lying in wait and killing someone in the name of Islam. This cannot be called confrontation, it is not reasonable. [passage indistinct]

Once Clinton had received Rushdie I made a statement in the name of the Islamic leadership and I said the things you have read in the papers about those who were meeting him.

Two days afterward Clinton made a statement. The statement I made was not published locally; it was published abroad [as heard]. Two or three days later Clinton held a news conference at the White House and said that he loved and revered Islam and did not agree with the things Rushdie said in the book. He said that he did not agree with the things Rushdie said about Islam in the book. I said that the book should be assassinated [i'dam] and that I had nothing to do with the fatwa issued by Khomeini. Clinton said that he is against the book and the things said in it. Before [al-Qadhafi's statement] he did not say anything, he received Rushdie. [passage indistinct]

That's right; Clinton received Rushdie because Rushdie scorned Islam. It was in support of the latter. Rushdie himself said that he did not expect the U.S. President to receive him and that he had not asked for such a meeting.

Of course there is no doubt that they wanted a confrontation with Islam; they wanted Christianity and capitalism to dominate the world. Hence, they will pour scorn on socialism, revolution, nationalism, Islam, any other religion, resistance, freedom, and everything else in order to dominate the world and nothing else. This audience with Rushdie has in fact brought Clinton shame and criticism, even from those people who are close to him.

Also the British government's secret contacts with the IRA has compromised its credibility.

Their decision in Somalia was also a smack in their faces; tomorrow they will be defeated in another place in the face of people's steadfastness and resistance. Therefore, I can tell that all their positions are wrong; they are based upon tyranny, suppression, and risk. [passage omitted]

Scientist Reports Nuclear Fusion 'Breakthrough'

LD0612154393 Tripoli JANA in English 1450 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] Tripoli, al-Kanun [December] 6, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—A professor from a Libyan

university, in co-operation with the centre for nuclear research in Tajoura has reached a breakthrough in his experiments in nuclear fusion, the energy which is created from a nuclear reaction between two nuclei, with identical characteristics, such as hydrogen rays, when they are fused. This type of reaction is the opposite of what takes place in nuclear fission which is currently carried out by atomic reactors throughout the world and are used to produce nuclear energy and to conduct nuclear tests.

The research scientist says that the results of his theory is the solution to the problem of beginning research in this area at an international level, where research continues and there is still no emergence of a reactor which would use hydrogen as it [word indistinct]. Hydrogen is one of the main elements of water and thus energy created from nuclear fusion is considered to be one of the most important alternative forms of energy in the future because its fuel (water) is available in (?great quantities) from the sea and oceans.

The research scientist says that this discovery will spur scientists to review their research and experiments and to reexamine their theoretical studies and reformulate them on new bases and concepts.

The research scientist said that this discovery would help to solve other scientific problems which depended on it.

Paper Thanks Arabs for Support Against Sanctions

LD0312173293 Tripoli JANA in English 1431 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Kanoun [December] 3, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The 'AL SHAMS' newspaper published an article in its special edition to mark the day when the new sanctions imposed on the Great Jamahiriyyah come into effect, which asked the Arab countries what they had given to the Great Jamahiriyyah in return for its constant contributions to them.

Under the heading 'Hello? Fellow Arabs?' the AL SHAMS said 'hello? we are calling you oh Arabs, to thank you, on behalf of your compatriots who opened the doors of their country to you, who shared their bread with you, hello? can anyone hear this? We would like to thank you in the name of those honourable people who think only of Tareq ibn Al-Walid, and Salah al-Din.

We thank you for your protests to the United Nations resolutions. The media spoke of your visits to the embassies and United Nations offices. We also heard about how your armies and tanks advanced on the American bases and how you disarmed them. We are grateful to your media for transmitting news of the requests made by your sincere, genuine leaders, to the American and other Western embassies to leave your countries within 24 hours. We thank you for mobilising your forces to counter the expected aggression to be launched against your fellow Arab country, the Jamahiriyyah, hello?...fellow

arabs, we thank you and your sincere leaders and we salute your airline companies for refusing to have dealings with American or Western companies, your airlines which joined together to form the Arab Airlines Company, thank you for your defiance to the blockade and to the unjust UN resolutions.

Hello, fellow Arabs? We thank you in the name of your compatriots who exhausted all their resources for 24 years for Arab causes.

Hello, fellow Arabs?, in the name of your compatriots who exhausted all their means at their disposal for 24 years in the service of the Arab nation, those who brandished the oil weapon in the face of the United States and the West during their great battles.

We would like to thank you for forcing American and Western companies to leave your countries immediately after you heard about the UN Security Council resolution, and your media transmitted your condemnations of this resolution and that Butrus-Ghali had submitted his resignation.

He tore up the orders he received from the White House and came to the Great Jamahiriyyah to resist the conspiracies against it.

How we thank you, we are fine, despite the blockade... [no end quotation mark as received]

Commentary on Sanctions' Implementation

LD0412110793 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The implementation of the unjust resolution imposed by the colonialist states in the so-called Security Council began the day before yesterday with the escalation of the unjust coercive measures against the Great Jamahiriyyah. We follow up the repercussions of this event in the following report.

The unfair and unjust resolutions passed by the Security Council under the hegemony of the United States and its Western allies confirm the extent of control and hegemony that the U.S. Administration and its allies exercise over the UN organization and the imposition of its unjust policies on small peoples. This may be considered one of the features of the so-called new world order, which is based on the imposition of U.S. imperialist policy on the world without any consideration of the desire and choices of small peoples who are striving to build themselves up and develop their economic resources in order to live in freedom, peace, and stability, far from the high-handedness and madness of those forces intent on spreading military bases, fleets, and warships in order to subjugate the will of peoples.

In a base challenge to the world's states and political and popular organizations, which have frequently stressed their rejection of the policy of force and pressures, the

implementation of the unjust resolution imposed by the colonialist states in the so-called Security Council began on the 1 December with the escalation of the unjust coercive measures against the Great Jamahiriya.

The policy of pressures and threats practiced for months by the Western states on the members of the Security Council led to the imposition of the unjust resolution related to the freezing of Libyan Arab assets abroad and preventing the supplying of certain oil technology equipment to the Great Jamahiriya. This has proved to the world yet again that the colonialist states control the so-called Security Council, which they have subjugated to their will and turned into a tool to fight, blockade, and starve whole peoples and hamper their construction and progress.

The colonialist states have ignored the true will of the international community, which through its governments and regional and international organizations has affirmed its support for the stance of the Great Jamahiriya as it confronts the crisis with the Western states, its complete solidarity with the Great Jamahiriya, and its call for the lifting of the unjust coercive measures.

This has been made clear by the stance of the Nonaligned Movement, which has 108 members, the OAU, which has 52 members, the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization], the Arab League, the Vatican, and the stance of China and India, who represent one-third of the world's population.

The colonialist states have heard and seen, before the whole world heard and saw it, the reply of the masses of the Basic People's Congresses, who went out in roaring throngs to receive the brother leader of the great al-Fatih revolution in a demonstration of steadfastness, challenge, and readiness for the confrontation. The masses let the whole world hear their resounding voice challenging the siege, announcing their historic decision to confront the new colonialist Crusader attack against the Arab nation, and affirming the will of a free people who thwarted the calculations of the colonialist states and destroyed their plans. The masses announced their decision of challenge, steadfastness, and confrontation, the right of veto in the face of the unjust malicious resolutions, the siege, and the policy of threats and warnings, in order to live in the same pride and honor as their fathers and grandfathers who shed their blood in heroic battles and the pages of honor that are immortal in the history of the Libyan Arab people and the great Arab nation.

All the reactions to this unjust resolution imposed by the colonialist states on the Great Jamahiriya have confirmed that it is invalid, lacks legitimacy, and falls within the framework of the neocolonialist campaign against the Great Jamahiriya. The peoples of the world, especially the small ones, are facing real peril as a result of this resolution, with which the Security Council has become a tool in the hands of the superpowers who run it in a way that serves their interests and ambitions. This requires a serious stance and a review of the Security

Council, which is supposed to be a tool for achieving security and peace in the world.

The Libyan Arab people interpret these unjust measures as mere confirmation of a fact that has become clear to the world, namely that the superpowers control the Security Council, subjugate it to their will, and turn it into a tool to fight, blockade, and starve whole peoples and hamper their development and progress.

The masses of the Basic People's Congresses in the Great Jamahiriya have confirmed their defiance and steadfastness against the blockade through their resounding voice, which challenges these unjust measures as they take to their streets to voice their anger out loud, reject all the coercive measures, and stress their defiance of the blockade and the policy of threats and ultimatums pursued by the Western states.

The masses of the Basic People's Congresses have sent messages to the brother leader of the revolution affirming their steadfastness and determination to protect the revolution and its achievements, regardless of the unjust blockade imposed on the Great Jamahiriya. The masses also emphasized that they are only waiting for the signal to carry out the order to die in defense of the great revolution and the great achievements that the great al-Fatih revolution has realized for the Libyan Arab people in various aspects of life.

Former Officials' Role at Seminar Questioned

PM0612114393 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 2 Dec 93 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Controversy Over Washington Seminars Continues. Libyan Oppositionist Criticizes Participation of Former al-Qadhdhafi Men"]

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Argument continued among Libyan opposition ranks after the conclusion of the seminar organized by the International Affairs and Strategy Institute [name as published] in Washington three days ago under the title "Libya After al-Qadhdhafi," in which a number of key Libyan opposition leaders abroad participated.

Dr. Henry Shular [name as transliterated], the director of the U.S. center, who supervised the organization of the seminar, received a letter from Fadil al-Mas'udi, political representative of the Libyan Democratic Party and member of the coordinating committee of the Libyan democratic forces, apologizing for his nonattendance at the seminar because of the participation of elements which he described as "former employees of Libyan President Mu'ammār al-Qadhdhafi who served his regime for a long time to consolidate his authority—which arouses a great deal of suspicion about how far this seminar was a serious event pursuing noble aims."

The letter listed in particular Mansur al-Kikhya (former Libyan foreign minister), Muhammad al-Muqaryif (Libya's ambassador to India), and Husayn al-Rayyani, a

long-time staffer at the Libyan Foreign Ministry, known for his close contacts with al-Hadi 'Ayyad, the Libyan security officer in Geneva.

In his letter al-Mas'udi wished Dr. Shular success in the future in avoiding inviting figures such as these. He expressed his hope of meeting with "the good Libyan elements which have the capability" to tackle the issues and questions raised, "and which before all others enjoy the respect and trust of all Libyans."

In his letter al-Mas'udi stressed that the "real and serious Libyan opposition is the one present inside Libya which is struggling against al-Qadhafi's regime from Libyan positions." He added that "this is the serious opposition worthy of respect."

But a statement issued by some of the parties which participated in the seminar pointed to the importance of the figures which participated in the seminar and their role in the struggle.

Sudan

Ghanaian President Stops Over, Meets al-Bashir

EA0612163593 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] This afternoon Ghanaian President Jerry Rawlings made a stopover at Khartoum airport with his delegation, while on their way to Cairo. He was received at the airport by Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, the president of the Republic, and Dr. Husayn Sulayman Abu Salih, the foreign minister.

Rawlings said that during his meeting with Lt. Gen. al-Bashir he discussed the problem of the southern part of the country and methods of solving it. He stressed that African issues should be solved within an African framework. He called for African unity and solidarity, stressing that his country would support all efforts made in this direction.

The political adviser to the president of the Republic, Mr. Yusuf, said that the two presidents discussed bilateral and regional issues such as the Somali issue. Lt. Gen. al-Bashir briefed the president of Ghana on matters relating to the achievement of peace in Somalia. The two sides affirmed cooperation between the two countries within the framework of all organizations and in particular the United Nations.

Opposition Leader on Dispute With Egypt

PM0312115493 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Dec 93 p4

[Ahmad Kamal Hamdi report: "Leader of the 'Legitimate Leadership' Organization Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: We Reject Self-Determination for Southern Sudan; Dispute With Egypt Unnecessary"]

[Text] Bonn—In the course of his tour of Europe, which followed his visit to the United States, General Fathi Ahmad 'Ali, former commander in chief of the Sudanese Armed Forces, talked to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT after his arrival in the German capital and his meeting with senior German officials. As a member of the leadership of the National Democratic Grouping, which includes all the parties and political, military, and trade unionist organizations opposed to the regime in Khartoum, he talked about the current situation in Sudan.

Gen. 'Ali, leader of the "Legitimate Leadership" Organization, said that a human tragedy is unfolding in Sudan, where a minority seized power by force of arms from the legitimate elected democratic government, a minority which seeks to militarize Sudanese society and control it in the name of religion along the same lines as Iran.

He spoke about the current tragic civil war in southern Sudan and the famine threatening the Sudanese people, a matter which calls for mobilization of world public opinion.

Gen. 'Ali also talked about the violation of human rights, torture, confiscation of property, the military campaigns in southern and western Sudan, the deterioration of the Sudanese economy, and the change in the dollar-Sudanese pound exchange rate, and the discontinuation of the aid provided by Western and Arab states and by the United Nations to Sudan. He said he expects the United Nations to pass a decisive resolution against the Khartoum Government.

Referring to the current dispute between Sudan and Egypt over the Hala'ib region, he said that such a dispute is really unnecessary and that the matter could be resolved in accordance with international charters and through peaceful fraternal negotiations because of the historic and eternal relations between the Sudanese and Egyptian peoples.

Commenting on the possibility of secession in southern Sudan, he said that he explained in Washington that the Sudanese opposition rejects the idea of the right of self-determination because such a right only applies to colonized and occupied nations. The opposition, he said, is striving for the unity of Sudanese territory and people as inspired by the resolution of African wise men and the OAU Charter. He said that John Garang is committed to the National Democratic Grouping's decision and announced his acceptance of that during his recent visit to Washington.

Referring to Iran's aid for Khartoum in all financial and military fields, Gen. 'Ali said that Iran helped Sudan with funds to purchase arms from China and that there are several camps in Sudan for training Arab and African fundamentalists. He noted that Khartoum trained a group of Somalis who participated in the attack on the UN forces in Mogadishu. He drew attention to the threat currently looming in the Horn of Africa and the Iranian aid to Sudan, a matter mentioned by Egyptian President

Husni Mubarak and repeated by [Egyptian Presidential Office Director] Dr. Usamah al-Baz.

Gen. Fathi Ahmad 'Ali said that his visit to Germany was successful and that he met with a number of German

Foreign Ministry officials as well as some representatives of ruling and opposition parties in parliament, and also with members of the Sudanese community in Germany. He said his tour covered a number of European states, but he declined to name them for security reasons.

GCC States Coordinate Positions on Peace Plan

PM0612163793 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Dec 93 p 5

[Report by Hasin al-Bunyan: "Gulf Contacts With View to Unified Stance on Region's New Developments"]

[Excerpt] Riyadh—Informed sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states are in continuous contact with a view to adopting a unified stance on the new developments in the Middle East peace process and the possible results of the negotiations on the various tracks.

The sources said that the six GCC states have formed a committee of Foreign Ministry under secretaries (which met in Riyadh the day before yesterday) to prepare a comprehensive report on how to address the question of future normalization of relations with Israel as a result of the multilateral negotiations and the possibility of an end to the economic boycott of Israel, without being influenced by foreign pressures.

The GCC states, the sources said, support and encourage the peace efforts to promote a just, comprehensive, and lasting settlement of the Palestinian question and end the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of UN Security Council resolutions (242, 338, and 425) and the land-for-peace principle guaranteeing comprehensive Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, including holy Jerusalem, and fulfillment of the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights, including their right to self-determination, and laying down firm foundations for security and stability in the Middle East. [passage omitted]

Study Sees Growth in Gulf Despite Oil Prices

NC0712093493 Paris AFP in English 0838 GMT 7 Dec 93

[By Nadim Kawash]

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Dec 7 (AFP)—Gulf Arab economies will have grown in 1993 despite a decline in their revenues caused by a sharp fall in oil prices, the state-run Emirates Industrial Bank (EIB) reported.

The revenues of the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states are expected to decline by 4.5 percent to 74 billion dollars in 1993 from around 77.5 billion dollars in 1992, EIB said in its monthly bulletin.

"Despite this decline, the GCC economies continued to grow at good rates in 1993 similar to the rates registered in the previous year," it said.

"This is due to the fact that such economies have become able to absorb oil price shocks unlike the case in mid 1980s as well as a sharp fall in allocations for infrastructure as most such projects have been completed."

EIB give no figures on its forecast growth rates but earlier projections put growth at between five and six percent.

Growth registered a negative rate of nearly five percent in 1991 but officials said this was because 1990 was exceptional as oil prices shot to more than 30 dollars during the Gulf war and pushed the GCC's Gross Domestic Product to a 10-year high of 165 billion dollars.

Despite attempts to diversify their economies, oil still provides more than 80 percent of the revenues of GCC states—Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

A sharp drop in crude prices over the past decade has steadily pushed down their earnings, which peaked at over 180 billion dollars in 1981.

This has created persistent deficits in their budgets and forced most of them to borrow. But officials believe the deficits are still manageable as the six members assume revenues at a minimum oil price level.

"GCC states have gained an experience in calculating their revenues as they depend heavily on oil," a UAE economist said. "I think the average oil price in their budget calculation is 15 to 17 dollars."

A sharp increase in crude stocks in the industrial countries and in output by independent producers have pushed oil prices to their lowest level in five years, reaching nearly seven dollars below OPEC's benchmark of 21 dollars.

In the first 11 months of 1993, prices averaged at 16.68 dollars compared with 18.40 dollars in 1992, 18.65 dollars in 1991 and 22.25 dollars in 1990.

EIB said it expected oil revenues of Saudi Arabia, the world's top crude producer and exporter, to reach 43.5 billion dollars in 1993 compared with 47.5 billion dollars in 1992. The 1993 figure is below the 45.1 billion dollars projected by the Kingdom when it released its budget early this year and forecast a deficit of 7.42 billion dollars.

Earnings by the UAE are expected to decline to 12.5 billion dollars in 1993 from 14.5 billion dollars in 1992 while those by Oman will drop to 4.8 billion dollars from 5.2 billion dollars, by Qatar to 2.9 billion dollars from 3.2 billion dollars and by Bahrain to 800 million dollars from 900 million dollars, the study said.

In contrast, Kuwait's income is projected to surge by 53 percent to 9.5 billion dollars from 6.2 billion dollars after it boosted production to two million barrels per day in 1993 from around 1.6 million bpd in 1992.

"Despite OPEC's efforts, oil prices continued to deteriorate," EIB said. "This shows the effects of OPEC's decisions are either not sufficient or have become less effective given the large production outside the organisation of 43.5 million bpd or 64 percent of the total world output."

Bahrain**Defense Minister Receives U.S. Defense Official***JN0612165693 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1235 GMT
6 Dec 93*

[Text] Manama, 6 Dec (WAKH)—Staff Lieutenant General Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Ahmad Al Khalifah, Bahraini defense minister and deputy commander in chief of the Bahraini Defense Force, today received Frank Wisner, U.S. under secretary of defense for general policy, and the accompanying delegation.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed existing relations of friendship and cooperation between the two friendly countries. They also discussed means to develop these relations and exchanged viewpoints on a number of military issues of common interest, in addition to developments in the regional and international arenas.

The meeting was attended by Staff Major General Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, the chief of staff; the U.S. charge d'affaires to Bahrain; and a number of top officers in the Defense Force.

Minister of Labor, Social Affairs Appointed*JN0612214493 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1225 GMT
6 Dec 93*

[Excerpt] Manama, 6 Dec (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain, issued a decree appointing Shaykh 'Isa Bin-'Ali Bin-Hamad Al Khalifah minister of labor and social affairs. [passage omitted]

Kuwait**Army Chief Views Joint Exercises With UK, U.S.***LD0612153493 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1247 GMT 6
Dec 93*

[Text] Kuwait, 6 Dec (KUNA)—The final project in the Kuwaiti-U.S.-British exercise "Integrated Measure 1-94" [al-ijra' al-muddamaj 1-94], which was held in the Udayri' al-Khullah region in the north of the country, ended today.

Major-General 'Ali Muhammad al-Mu'min, chief of the Army General Staff, said in a statement to journalists after the exercise ended that the U.S. and British participation was good. He indicated that coordination in firing at targets and the movements of the three states' forces "was the most successful part of the exercise."

Major-General Mu'min said coordination between the Kuwaiti ground force and air force in this exercise was the result of new tactics and bringing the forces closer to each other, which helped to bring out the cooperation, coordination, and trust between them.

He indicated that most of the weapons of the ground and air forces were in this exercise.

A number of Gazelle helicopters of the Kuwaiti air force took part in the exercise, which began with F-18 planes bombing the positions of the imaginary enemy, followed by an artillery attack from several directions to surround the enemy and shelling the targets with antitank missiles.

This was followed by the artillery withdrawal operation and the beginning of the tank offensive against the targets which were fired on with light weapons and machine guns. Then came the joint attack with all weapons on the enemy and the cleansing of the occupied positions.

These exercises come within the framework of the security agreement which Kuwait signed with the United States and Britain.

Writer Criticizes Clinton Meeting With Rushdie*JN0312162293 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 28 Nov
93 p 13*

[Article by Hafiz al-Shaykh: "Shortsighted Behavior"]

[Text] The least that can be said about the warm reception accorded to the so-called Salman Rushdie in the White House last week by U.S. President Bill Clinton, his Secretary of State Warren Christopher, and his National Security Adviser Anthony Lake is that it was a reckless, shortsighted, and useless action. It is also tantamount to a purely childish behavior.

If this overt and warm U.S. reception of the author of *Satanic Verses* was aimed at defying and provoking Iran, certainly, America could have done so in many other ways. It could have defied Iran the way it wanted without losing respect, without flagrantly hurting the sentiments and creeds of others, and without this reckless and irresponsible provocation of what others consider sacred. If Washington really wanted to defy Tehran, it, for example, could have hosted Maryam Rajavi, [leader of the Iranian opposition Mojahedin-e Khalq organization], as Paris did, or receive or host in the White House any of the opponents of the Iranian state. However, the so-called Salman Rushdie is not an Iranian opposition member or a political antagonist of Iran, but a small and weak example of the apostate group, which, tirelessly, looks for fame in the Western world and for good relations with it by insulting its nation, and by extravagantly slandering it, no more, no less.

Since the Koran is not only the Holy Book of the Iranians, and since Islam is not only the religion of the Iranians, this reckless reception of the so-called Salman Rushdie in the White House does not just provoke Iran, but also invokes bad feelings about America by any Muslim on Earth who knew about this reception and who learned of this man's insolent encroachment on Islam. It seems as if all the indignation of all the Muslim masses about America's reckless policy and idiotic

actions are not enough for the U.S. Administration to make Bill Clinton and his aides sink to this level by receiving the author of *Satanic Verses*.

Of course, it is nice to hear some U.S. State Department officials' saying that Clinton's reception of the writer of *Satanic Verses* was only a demonstration against fanaticism, but not against Islam. However, it is a strange time when the U.S. State Department and the U.S. Congress foreign relations committees take upon themselves the responsibility of defining Islam and announcing its characteristics, as well as defining fanaticism and moderation, and describing the enslavers of people as moderates, or branding people who reject slavery with fanaticism, extremism, and terrorism.

AL-QABAS Interviews Russian Charge d'Affaires

LD0512123193 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1010 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 5 Dec KUNA—In an interview published today, Andrey Panov, the Russian charge d'affaires and first counsellor at the Russian embassy in Kuwait [name and title as received], reaffirmed his country's commitment to defend Kuwait's sovereignty and territorial integrity, if necessary, within the wording of the security agreement signed between the State of Kuwait and Russia. The said agreement stipulates technical military cooperation, the staging of joint exercises, the exchange of visits by military delegations, as well as supplying the Kuwaiti Army with Russian-made equipment and weapons. In an interview with "AL-QABAS" Panov spoke too about the history of bilateral relations. [passage omitted]

Regarding the attitude of Russia vis-a-vis the implementation of the UN resolutions relating to the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border, he said that it was supposed that the UN resolutions would be implemented, and that Russia's attitude was clear against the treacherous aggression on the State of Kuwait. He stressed the necessity of implementing Resolution 833 relating to the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border. [passage omitted] He pointed out that it was premature to talk about reducing the sanctions on Iraq because there are many outstanding issues. [passage omitted]

On the other hand, the Russian charge d'affaires said when talking about security arrangements in the Gulf, that "it was inevitable that the Iranian role in this region should be taken into account." He pointed out that Iran had interests in the Gulf and that relations between Iran and the Gulf states were developing. He expressed hope that the problem of the three islands of Abu Musa, the Greater and Lesser Tunbs, would be solved peacefully and through negotiations between the parties concerned, and with the mediation of other Gulf states.

Regarding the phenomenon of religious extremism sweeping the Middle East, he said: We are against this extremism because we are living during the end part of the 20th century and religion should not be exploited in

order to realize political interests. What is happening in former Yugoslavia is the best example of that.

In answer to a question about the monies owed by some Arab countries to Russia, he said that "the problems of debts should be resolved on the basis of bilateral agreement between the two states—the creditor and debtor—but this problem should not stand against the development of relations between states. [passage omitted]

Estonian President Holds Talks With Amir

LD0612114693 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] At 1000 this morning, Estonian President Meri Lennart visited his highness the amir at the Bayan palace, and official talks between them were held there.

Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Ahmad, minister of the amir's affairs, said the talks focused on developments in bilateral relations between the two friendly countries, ways of bolstering them in various fields, and a number of issues of mutual interest.

The talks took place in a cordial atmosphere characterized by mutual understanding and a spirit of friendship.

Minister Reaffirms Commitment to Security Fence

PM0312101293 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 30 Nov 93 p2

[Report by Ghunaym al-Mutayri: "Kuwaiti Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Emphasizes: Work on Construction of Security Fence To Continue; Effective Measures Against Iraqi Violations"]

[Excerpts] Kuwait—Kuwaiti Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dakhil has emphasized that the recent Iraqi violation of Kuwaiti borders was a link in the chain of serious violations by Iraq which, by doing so, ignores international legitimacy, flouts Security Council resolutions, and confirms its aggressive and expansionist intentions and its attempts to test the Kuwaiti and international resolve against its known aims and designs.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, al-Dakhil said that "Kuwait's position on these violations does not deviate from its principle, firm, and clear position regarding any aggression on its territorial integrity. It will only increase the determination, faith, and insistence of the Kuwaiti Government and people on their just demands and on the need for the implementation of all the Security Council resolutions pertaining to the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait to safeguard Kuwait's sovereignty, territorial integrity, security, and stability and to ensure the return of all the Kuwaiti POW's and detainees." [passage omitted]

He said that the Kuwaiti cabinet has urged the Security Council to take effective measures to ensure that the Iraqi regime complies with all the Security Council

resolutions, respects Kuwait's sovereignty, and stops its continuous violations which threaten peace and security in the region.

He confirmed that work on the security belt project would continue "despite the Iraqi regime's attempts to obstruct it because, in its various stages, it reflects the Kuwaiti people's will. There is no way the implementation of that project is going to be abandoned. Perhaps these aggressive attempts confirm the importance of the project and they increase our conviction of its advantages. We are facing a regime which does not hesitate to do anything to fulfill its aggressive aims and intentions."

Al-Dakhil added: "The security belt will contribute to the protection of the country's borders and ensure its safety. It will also put an end to the infiltration and smuggling and foil the plans of the Iraqi regime and its agents to undermine Kuwait's security and stability." [passage omitted]

Referring to the Iraqi regime's denial that it holds Kuwaiti POW's, he said that these were mere claims and falsehoods refuted by the documents confirmed by various states and humanitarian organizations concerned with this issue. He added that the regime's claims would not prevent more effective contacts with fraternal and friendly states and with all organizations concerned until all the POW's and detainees are released.

Oil Minister Expects Prices To Increase

NC0512141793 Paris AFP in English 1355 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Text] Kuwait City, Dec 5 (AFP)—Kuwaiti Oil Minister 'Ali al-Baghli said Sunday [5 December] he expected oil prices to rise in the coming days but OPEC would have to hold an emergency meeting unless the slide was checked.

The Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries will discuss the price drop at a meeting this week in Damascus, he told AFP, adding that OPEC itself would convene an emergency session if prices fell further.

Prices are however expected to "recover in the next few days," al-Baghli said. "All the market factors make a case for such a recovery."

OPEC decided to maintain its official output ceiling of 24.5 million barrels per day (b/d) for the six months ending in March. But oil prices have plunged to nearly seven dollars below the cartel's benchmark of 21 dollars.

Exhibition Held on 40th Anniversary of Air Force

LD0412180793 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1520 GMT 4 Dec 93

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 4 December—The Kuwaiti Air Force will be celebrating its 40th anniversary on Wednesday [8 December]. On this occasion, the Air Force will hold a military exhibition that will include a number of pavilions reflecting the progress of the Air Force.

The assistant commander of the Air Force, Staff Colonel Mahmud Razzuqi, said at a news conference here today that celebrating 40 years, 1953 to 1993, of the Kuwaiti Air Force and setting up a military exhibition were a proof that the Air Force was part of the Kuwaiti community and that it would always work for safeguarding its security against any aggressor.

He added that 39 international companies were taking part in the exhibition, which includes various pavilions. These companies had witnessed the birth of the Air Force and its development to this day.

Col. Razzuqi explained that the exhibition includes exhibits of modern and old aircraft that have been in operation in the Kuwaiti Air Force during the 40 years of its life, as well as technical equipment in use in the world of aviation and equipment used in repairing runways and anti-ballistic devices. [passage omitted]

He stressed that among the most important aims behind holding the exhibition was to encourage Kuwaiti young men to join the Air Force as it was a cornerstone in the defense of the homeland. [passage omitted]

Qatar

Official Backs Iraq, Denounces Embargo

JN0512180293 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Text] 'Ali al-Hifni, secretary general of the Qatari Advisory Council, has expressed his solidarity with Iraq's people and called for lifting the blockade from which they are suffering. He also denounced all campaigns against Iraq's national unity.

During his reception of Iraq's ambassador to the State of Qatar today, al-Hifni urged the unity of Arab ranks and building solidarity to confront the challenges to unity and the Arab nation's security and interests.

The Iraqi ambassador presented the Qatari Advisory Council's secretary general with a message from Iraqi National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih dealing with the unjust Western media campaign against Iraq and its people to continue the unjust blockade imposed on the people.

Saudi Arabia

King Reportedly Suffering Fatal Bone Cancer

JN0312172493 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 29 Nov 93 pp 1, 2

[Text] Western diplomatic information has affirmed that King Fahd is suffering from a fatal cancer, and that Crown Prince 'Abdallah is preparing to assume power.

It is reported among Western diplomatic circles in the French capital that Fahd's health condition is extremely bad

as a result of bone cancer affecting his vertebral column, and that he will soon leave for Cleveland in the United States to undergo a very serious surgical operation.

The same circles pointed out that Fahd's absence may last longer than expected due to the critical and serious operation he will undergo. Prince 'Abdallah will run the country's affairs pending developments in Fahd's health condition.

These circles did not rule out 'Abdallah's assumption of power if his brother's health condition continues to deteriorate and becomes incurable, as is expected.

Press reports say that 'Abdallah's star has begun to rise again toward the assumption of power, after he was placed outside the limelight during the 30-state aggression, at the expense of his brother Prince Sultan, who, along with his sons, played a prominent role during the aggression on Iraq. The Western circles did not rule out that Washington is the party seeking this expected political change.

Press on Christopher Tour, Mideast Peace Process

LD0412145693 Riyadh SPA in English 1238 GMT 4 Dec 93

[Text] Riyadh, Dec 4, SPA—Most of the Saudi newspapers today editorially highlighted the importance of new Middle East peace mission of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, which began yesterday and is expected to end next Friday. This is Christopher's third Middle East tour. His tour began in Tel Aviv yesterday. It will also take him to Damascus, Amman and Cairo.

The Jeddah-based 'UKAZ said the latest attempt of the U.S. secretary of state comes at a crucial time of the Israeli escalations and bloody campaigns against the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

"These Israeli escalations are meant to convince Christopher that Gaza-Jericho agreement signed by the Palestine Liberation Organization and Israel does not provide enough guarantees for the Jewish state and that the PLO is incapable of settling its problems with other Palestinian factions, particularly with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] organization," the daily said.

"It is quite clear that the Israelis are just looking for any justification, even if it is illogical, to abrogate the agreement concluded with the PLO," it added.

On the same topic, AL-MADINAH said the escalation of tension in the occupied territories indicates that signing of Gaza-Jericho agreement was really a disguised Israeli attempt with its usual hidden and destructive objectives. The daily noted that the Palestinians have resorted to escalation of the armed struggle when Israel blocked the peace process, it added.

For its part, the Jeddah-based AL-BILAD said the nations of the Middle East region have the right to look

for an era of peace and stability. The concerned parties of the peace process should have far-sighted views and adhere to the principles of the agreements they have already signed, it added. The Riyadh-based AL-JAZIRAH said Christopher's visit to the region comes in the light of new emerging difficulties and as a result on the Israeli maneuvers and intransigence.

"It seems that Israel is violating the article of the peace agreement which stipulates its withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho before December 13."

"The failure of Israel to honor its commitment will cast doubts on its credibility and serve the critics of the peace agreement," the daily said. The paper described as "timely," the visit of Christopher to the region and expressed optimism that it would yield positive results and convince Israel about the importance of proceeding on the path of peace.

The Dammam-based AL-YAWM also sounded similar tone of optimism and said Christopher's talks in the region would lead to tangible progress in the Arab-Israeli negotiations. The daily accused Israel of trying to block the peace process and retreating from the implementation of the articles of the peace accord it had concluded with the PLO. The paper hoped that the U.S. Administration will put pressure on Israel to force it to comply with the healthy trend of peace. The paper pointed out that Christopher is carrying with him new ideas to salvage the peace process. "But, this does not mean that the U.S. Administration has given up its role as a full partner in the peace process." It called for a comprehensive settlement of all Middle East issues as the peace process in the Middle East cannot be split up according to desires and whims of Israel.

Interior Minister Meets Tunisian Counterpart

LD0412195193 Riyadh SPA in English 1924 GMT 4 Dec 93

[Text] Riyadh, Dec 4, SPA—Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the minister of interior, has welcomed his Tunisian counterpart, Abdallah Kallel to his second country, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Prince Nayif, who made the remarks after he received Kallel and his accompanying delegation at the airport this evening, thanked the latter for responding his invitation to discuss security matters concerning the two countries and the best means to serve the overall Arab and Islamic security. He expressed hope that the officials of the two countries would continue to exchange such cordial visits.

For his part, Minister Kallel expressed delight on visiting the Kingdom at the invitation of Prince Nayif and said the visit comes in the framework of the distinguished ties between the two countries and in the framework of the fraternal and cordial feelings between custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and the Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

The Tunisian minister of interior said his talks with Prince Nayif will cover all security items of mutual interest and ways to enhance exchange of expertise, training and data between the various sections of the two ministries.

Kallel expressed admiration on the tremendous development rise being witnessed by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in all fields and said such marvelous development should be a matter of pride for the entire Arab nation.

United Arab Emirates

South Africa Said Planning To Open Trade Center

NC0512125493 Paris AFP in English 1146 GMT 5 Dec 93

[By Nadim Kawash]

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Dec 5 (AFP)—South Africa is planning to open a commercial office in the Gulf's main economic centre of Dubayy in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to boost exports to the region, Dubayy officials said Sunday [5 December].

The office will be set up after South Africa and the UAE establish diplomatic relations, said 'Abdallah Abu-al-Hawl, public relations director at the Dubayy chamber of commerce and industry.

"It is a decision by the South African government, which informed us of the plans during our recent visit to Pretoria," he told AFP by telephone.

"But of course you can not open a trade centre when you do not have diplomatic relations. Once a South African embassy is opened in the UAE, the centre will open. It's just a matter of time."

Dubayy, the second largest and wealthiest emirate in the UAE, is the biggest commercial centre in the Gulf, handling nearly 25 percent of the region's non-oil trade of more than 50 billion dollars a year.

It is also the main trans-shipment centre in the region, with re-exports going to more than 100 countries.

But Iran and Saudi Arabia have remained its top re-export markets, receiving goods worth around 800 million dollars and 700 million dollars respectively in 1992.

More than 30 countries have trade offices in Dubayy while others are planning to set them up in a bid to penetrate other markets.

South Africa's plan to open a commercial centre follows a dramatic growth in its trade links with the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states after they lifted the anti-apartheid boycott in response to reforms there.

Its trade with the six members—Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, and the UAE—exceeded 30 million dollars in the first half of 1993 while it was negligible during the sanctions.

Most of the trade this year was with Dubayy, standing at around 25 million dollars.

More than 100 South African companies made a debut in the Middle East last year when they displayed their products at a fair in Dubayy. Around 40 firms also participated in a South African exhibition in the emirate in November.

Abu-al-Hawl said another major South African exhibition would be held in Dubayy in May.

"This underscores the need for a commercial centre here. We have welcomed their plan because we now maintain strong relations with South Africa and exchange visits frequently," he said.

South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha opened Pretoria's first embassy in Bahrain last month and said more diplomatic missions were planned in the other GCC members.

GCC states are among the world's leading oil and gas exporters, and are thirsty for technology to build an industrial base to lessen reliance on oil.

Yemen

Al-Bid Proposes Salih's, Own Resignations

NC0712104193 Paris AFP in English 0926 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Dec 7 (AFP)—Yemeni Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid has proposed that both he and President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih resign to end the political crisis treating the country's unity.

"Only one move is left for us, which is that I and Salih quit instead of fighting and quarreling," he told the United Arab Emirates daily AL-KHALIJ, in extracts from an interview obtained ahead of publication on Wednesday.

"This is my last proposal and I am proposing it seriously. We have to quit and not allow us to reach a deadlock and destroy the nation," which only united in May 1990, the vice president warned.

Al-Bid has retired to the former southern capital of Aden since August, boycotting all official functions in protest at the way the country is being run from Sanaa.

He has issued a list of demands to resolve the crisis, including decentralizing the government, measures to stabilize Yemen and withdrawal of army units from main cities.

Salih said he accepted the demands and called for talks to work out a timetable to implement the changes.

But al-Bid, in the first part of the interview that was published on Tuesday, was skeptical. "He agreed in a way which does not make us confident that the agreement is true," he said.

"We should move to implementation. Credibility comes by moving from words to action and working out a detailed programme which is to be enforced immediately."

Al-Bid said Yemen's unity had so far been a failure, primarily because the country lacked strong leadership.

"I tell you that Yemen has not yet reached a union. The army is still two armies and we still have more than two in everything," the vice president told AL-KHALIJ.

"We have been unable to reach a union. The determination which existed has not been matched by people who could rise to the occasion. This great project needed great personalities."

Salih Views Internal Crisis, Arab Reconciliation

NC0412101893 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610
GMT 4 Dec 93

[Telephone interview with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, in Sanaa, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Jundi] Mr. President, let us begin this dialogue with the current political crisis in Yemen. We would like to hear your comment on the situation.

[Salih] The crisis began on 19 August. We are holding exchanges with all the political, national, and democratic forces that believe in unity, democracy, human rights, and stability to contain this crisis.

[Al-Jundi] Mr. President, are you referring here to the parliament or to other forces?

[Salih] I am referring to the democratic forces elected on 27 April 1993. We are doing all we can to contain the crisis in cooperation with all these forces, with the various sides of the government coalition, and with parliamentary figures.

[Al-Jundi] Mr. President, Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid is living in seclusion in Aden. Does this endanger Yemeni unity?

[Salih] Look, Yemeni unity is a choice that has been made by the Yemeni people, not any individual or party. Unity has happened because of an overwhelming national decision. The leaders are just symbols and minor catalysts in the process of reviving the unity of the Yemeni homeland.

[Al-Jundi] President Salih, you have made a number of telephone calls to President Hosni Mubarak. How crucial is the need to enhance Egyptian-Yemeni relations in the current phase?

[Salih] To begin with, the relations between the Yemeni and Egyptian people are longstanding. These relations were anointed with the blood of martyrs during the national struggle for liberation and the battles with imperialism and reactionary forces. These are not just based on the interests of the regimes, but have been consecrated with the sacrifices of the martyrs, including valiant Egyptians such as Nabil al-Waqqad and many more. The historic foundations of these ties will endure.

[Al-Jundi] Does the current political crisis in Yemen undercut Yemeni efforts to achieve Arab reconciliation?

[Salih] No, the crisis does not hinder us from exerting the best of our humble efforts to restore Arab solidarity. We will continue to exert efforts. Our diplomacy is firmly committed to finding a peaceful way to resolve Arab differences, restore solidarity, and put the Arab house in order. There is no change here.

[Al-Jundi] President Salih, Yemen has settled its border dispute with the Sultanate of Oman and seeks to do the same with Saudi Arabia. Is this a prelude to achieving Arab reconciliation with the Gulf countries?

[Salih] The same mechanism and spirit that guided our endeavor to resolve our dispute with sisterly Oman will be applied to the similar problem involving the brothers in Saudi Arabia. We want to settle the problem in a cordial and fraternal way. There is no victor and no vanquished in this process. No harm will be done to anyone and everyone will be satisfied. This is not just the concern of rulers; our nations and the entire Arab people are involved.

[Al-Jundi] Are you willing to hold a meeting with 'Ali Salim al-Bid?

[Salih] Of course, I welcome such a meeting in the framework of constitutional legitimacy. I have no objection to holding brotherly meetings. I am ready to go to Aden. I have no problem with such a meeting and no qualms about it. However, al-Bid and the Yemeni Socialist Party should stand by the 18 points that he presented. We should not be presented with new points every day. Someone has sent out feelers about federalism. Federalism, as the Socialist Party said, is a concept that is worthy of discussion. If it proves to have the support of the Yemeni people, then we should discuss it. Otherwise, it will remain an individual opinion, not that of the party, despite allegations to the contrary. Brother Salim Salih, a member of the Presidential Council, cannot be denied his rights. He, I am certain, because of the idiosyncrasies of Yemen, I know how these trial balloons are fired. [sentence as heard]

[Al-Jundi] Mr. President, at the end of our dialogue is there anything you would like to add?

[Salih] I would merely like to send my best wishes to the Arab people of Egypt and our Arab people everywhere. We pray to God that the Arab and Islamic people will be spared any harm.

[Al-Jundi] Thank you. We all wish you success and hope that the political crisis in Yemen will disappear like a passing summer cloud.

[Salih] Thank you.

'Participant' on Talks To End Political Crisis

NC0412182893 Paris AFP in English 1717 GMT 4 Dec 93

[Text] Sanaa, Dec 4 (AFP)—Representatives of Yemen's main parties began talks here Saturday aimed at ending a political crisis that has divided north and south for more than four months, a participant said.

Members of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's General People's Congress (GPC) in the north met with their southern coalition partners from Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid's Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) as well as the Islamic Al-Islah party, the participant, who declined to be identified, told AFP.

They reviewed ways of "ending the escalation on the military and information fronts," he said.

Two committees were created at the meeting, one to discuss the military situation after recent troop movements and another to end press campaigns pitting the GPC against the YSP, the two main rivals in the crisis.

Since August 19, the vice president has refused to leave the southern port city of Aden, demanding political and economic decentralization.

The dialogue to settle the crisis was originally scheduled for November 27 but was put off a day and then postponed indefinitely last Sunday.

YSP deputy leader Salim Salih Muhammad had proposed a federal system in Yemen, as an alternative to the 1990 reunification of north and south, but the GPC rejected the proposal, describing it as an attempt at secession.

Regional loyalties are strong in Yemen and the armies of the two former rival states have not been merged into a single national army since reunification.

Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas was meanwhile asked to gather together editorial writers from the country's newspapers on Monday to end the media campaign.

The start of the talks Saturday coincided with the arrival of the chief of Jordan's royal court, Zayid bin-Shakir, who has been charged by King Husayn with organizing a reconciliation meeting between Salih and al-Bid in Amman.

Former Leader Discusses Unity, Return

JN0312150693 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 30 Nov 93 p 37

[Interview with 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, former president of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, by 'Assaf 'Abbud in Damascus; date not given]

[Excerpts] ['Abbud] Why was the national dialogue committee meeting postponed? What ideas for a solution will you submit to this committee, since you have been named one of its members?

[Muhammad] I was surprised to learn I had been appointed to the national dialogue committee in Yemen. For our part, we bless any effort this committee, or any other party, can exert to resolve Yemen's problem and bring stability to the country. We hope the national dialogue committee will resume its meetings. There is no alternative to dialogue for settling Yemen's problems. It is the only course that will bring about understanding and thwart the schemes of the enemies of unity.

As for why it was postponed, according to what I know this was due to the absence of some committee members at a scheduled meeting; specifically, Mujahid Abu-Shawarib, who did not attend the meeting but left for Aden on a special mission. Other members, including 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jafri, were also absent, not to mention the many developments that have been taking place in the Yemeni arena.

For my part, as I said, I was appointed to the committee without being consulted. That's why I will attend the committee meetings only if some conditions are met and some of my suggestions to the parties to the conflict are accepted. What is important now is that the operation of forming committees is not just an excuse to evade the current state of affairs in Yemen and that people sincerely intend to resolve outstanding problems. All parties, including the higher political command in Yemen, should work to resume dialogue, and to extricate themselves from this dilemma. We will pursue our contacts with all parties. President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih contacted us to consult on many developments.

['Abbud] When will you return to Yemen? What political role will you play? Will you form or join any party? Will you assume an official post in the government?

[Muhammad] I might return to Yemen at any time. The purpose of my return will be to participate in the national dialogue in order to serve Yemen's higher interests, in addition to the inauguration of the Arab center for strategic studies. We hope all conditions for our return to Yemen will soon be met, God willing. As for my joining any political party or forming a party, I say that if I return to Yemen, I will not want to join any party or form a party. My activities will be devoted to the strategic studies center. I will pursue my contacts with all parties and national figures in order to enhance national

unity. I have no intention of participating in anyway whatsoever in power in Yemen. [passage omitted]

[Abbud] Some parties called for your mediation to resolve the crisis. What items are in your initiative? Have all parties in Yemen accepted it?

[Muhammad] The mediation I am embarking on is based on ideas included in an initiative to find a solution. These ideas, which we presented to all parties in Yemen, are common denominators. I will move in light of the replies I will receive from the parties.

The general outlines of my initiative are the following:

1. Yes to unity, no to division;
2. Yes to dialogue, no to fighting;
3. Yes to security and stability, no to chaos and confusion;
4. Expanding the base of local government and supporting popular participation in the government. This was included in the election platforms of all parties and political forces and in the charters of the General People's Congress and the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP).

Furthermore, we can propose other ideas after we receive responses to our initiative from the Yemeni parties.

[Abbud] It has been reported that Aden Governor Nasir al-Sili met you in Damascus yesterday in order to attract you to the YSP. How true is this?

[Muhammad] I have not met Brigadier General al-Sili, but I learned that he passed through Damascus to another country. However, I met many YSP leaders, including Salim Salih, member of the Presidential Council, and brother 'Abdallah Muhsin, minister of housing. What is being said about 'Ali Nasir Muhammad's support for one of the parties to the conflict is incorrect. I maintain good relations with all Yemeni parties. I will not be dragged into the current contest. I will not side with one party against another. My relations and contacts seek to safeguard unity. I side only with national unity and Yemeni unity.

[Abbud] Federation was proposed as a solution to the crisis in Yemen. Some people supported it, while others opposed it. What is your opinion?

[Muhammad] Nobody can bypass or relinquish the Republic of Yemen. There can be flexibility in terms of local government in the state of unity. It would be better to give broader powers to the local administrations by expanding popular participation in the administration. What is being proposed with regard to this issue, that is, federation, falls within the framework of interpretations. No Yemeni party has announced its official stand on this subject. [passage omitted]

[Abbud] It has been reported that the YSP armed its members in Aden. Is this true?

[Muhammad] We have no information that the YSP or other parties armed their members or supporters. However, the Yemeni people have weapons. This makes the situation in Yemen delicate and requires that the political leadership be vigilant and prudent because any explosion in the situation will create a destructive civil war. [passage omitted]

Egyptian Security Agencies Reveal Sabotage Camps

NC0612111893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1005 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] Sanaa, 6 Dec (MENA)—The Yemeni weekly AL-MITHAQ, the mouthpiece of the General People's Congress, reports in today's edition that an Egyptian security delegation will arrive in Sanaa in the next few days on an official visit to Yemen. It adds that the delegation will hold talks with Yemeni security authorities on coordination between the two countries to fight terrorism.

AL-MITHAQ says knowledgeable sources told the paper that the Egyptian security agencies have provided important information on sabotage activity and the presence of seven camps for this activity, five of which are located in the southern governorates. The paper notes that this information is consistent with the Yemeni Interior Ministry's records.

Consignment of Irradiated Fuel Flown to Russia

NC0612125193 Paris AFP in English 1205 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 6 (AFP)—A first consignment of irradiated fuel from Iraq's nuclear programme has been flown to Russia for disposal, a U.N. source said Monday (6 December).

Maurizio Zifferero, assistant director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), has said around 35 kilograms (77 pounds) of irradiated fuel is to be transferred to Russia.

A first shipment was flown out on board an Antonov-124 transport plane from al-Habbaniyah airport west of Baghdad on Sunday, the U.N. source said without specifying the quantity.

"The second and final consignment will be shipped out early next year," the source said.

Iraq agreed to have its irradiated nuclear fuel removed during a visit in April by Zifferero at the head of a team of nuclear inspectors.

Zifferero has refused to give the precise cost of the multi-million-dollar operation, which is to be paid for by Iraq.

The IAEA dispatched around 12 kilograms (26 pounds) of enriched uranium to Russia last month.

The United Nations ordered the destruction of Iraq's nuclear programme under Gulf war ceasefire resolutions eliminating its weapons of mass destruction.

Opposition Paper Reports 2 Bombs in Baghdad

NC0612191193 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] The explosion of a booby-trapped car near the General Intelligence Department in Baghdad has burned three vehicles belonging to this organ.

The weekly paper AL-MUTAMAR, which is published by the Information Department of the Unified Iraqi National Congress, reported this in its edition today, Monday, and added that the regime's repressive and terrorist organs have become the direct target of Iraqis.

Citing its own sources, the paper said that a time bomb exploded in front of the so-called pro-Saddam Kurdish Democratic Party offices in the area of [word indistinct] in Baghdad and caused material damage to the party offices.

Radio Reports 'Resistance' Attack on Troops

NC0612181593 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1440 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] Early last week, the Islamic resistance fighters carried out a wide-scale attack against the headquarters and main offices of the tyrant's security and party forces in the area of al-Fuhud, the Chabaiha district, in the

marshland of al-Nasiriya Governorate. The attack came in retaliation for the extensive acts of oppression by tyrant Saddam's forces against the inhabitants of the southern marshes and in response to the regime's attempt to turn the marshland into an arid desert by draining it.

In an urgent report, our news sources in the south reported that the resistance groups had stormed al-Fuhud area and fully controlled it for more than 18 hours. The operation was so accurately done that the resistance fighters managed to surprise the security and party forces in the region, who were surrounded inside their offices before they turned themselves in to the resistance men. The same sources added that the tyrant's forces in al-Fuhud area had sustained considerable casualties, including the following:

1. More than 50 of the regime's troops, security, intelligence, and party officials were either killed or wounded.
2. More than 65 security, intelligence, and party officers and other personnel were arrested. The resistance forces released them later after obtaining promises from them to stop committing crimes against our oppressed people.
3. Scores of vehicles of the tyrant's authorities were destroyed and one vehicle was seized. Grave damage was inflicted on the buildings housing the headquarters of the ruling party and security departments.
4. Very important, sensitive documents were seized in the headquarters of the security and party departments. The documents explain the plans and crimes of the Saddamite regime against the Iraqi people in the southern marshes.

3. A number of prisoners and detainees were released, including military officers who were waiting to be transferred to the al-Radwanayah prison in Baghdad.

The resistance forces returned to their bases after distributing dozens of leaflets urging the people to stand together against the tyranny and brutality of the Saddam's regime and his horrible massacres, which brought grief to every house and family in Iraq.

It is worth noting that Saddam's regime is currently conducting the most violent and serious campaign of oppression and annihilation against the inhabitants of the southern marshes. Saddam's troops have started to randomly arrest people fleeing from the southern marshes.

Oil Minister on Poor Oil Market Situation

JN0512141193 Baghdad AL-THEAWRAH in Arabic 1 Dec 93 pp 1, 2

[By Sa'ib 'Abd al-Mahsin]

[Text] Oil Minister Dr. Safi' Hadi Jawad has stressed that the international oil market is currently passing through a very critical stage as a result of the huge

surplus in the market and because demand for oil has not increased as expected. This has caused prices to drop to the lowest level since 1986.

In a statement to AL-THAWRAH, he said: What has made the situation worse is that during their recent ministerial conference, the OPEC member states did not reach a new formula to stop the deterioration in prices. The conference decided to continue to abide by the production ceiling which was set by OPEC member states in September 1993, which is 24.52 million barrels per day on the pretext of giving this ceiling a chance. The member states were also asked to abide by their production quotas.

He noted that Iraq has said that it does not recognize the September agreement, especially since the only agreement binding to all member states is the July 1990 agreement. He said that preventing Iraq from returning to the international oil market has changed the balances in favor of other members.

The minister pointed out that OPEC is not the only side responsible for defending oil prices, but that other oil-producing countries should also assume their responsibilities in this regard.

Following the recent OPEC ministerial conference, oil prices have dropped sharply, and the price of the North Sea oil—a price which affects the international oil market—has also dropped to \$13.5 per barrel.

The oil minister predicted that the oil market situation during the next few months will be bad if production from outside OPEC continues at its current rates, and if the OPEC member states continue to exceed their quotas.

He said that the industrialized nations might increase their oil reserves in view of the current bad weather conditions in Europe and the United States as demand for oil will increase. Moreover, refinery owners might stop pumping oil from their reserves due to the end of year and Christmas holidays.

Concluding his statement, the minister said that there are signs that the industrialized states are trying to solve their current crises, which is expected to improve demand for oil. This, he said, could postpone the deterioration of prices, whose signs began to appear following the recent OPEC conference, until, perhaps, after the first quarter of next year.

Qatari Military Official Meets Saddam Husayn

JN0412144693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1432 GMT 4 Dec 93

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Dec (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Fahd Bin-Muhammad Al Thani, the Army assistant chief of staff in fraternal Qatar.

Meets Husayn Kamil Hasan

JN0512133693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Dec (INA)—Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and minerals and supervisor of the Military Industrialization Organization, has met with Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Fahd Bin-Muhammad Al Thani, assistant army chief of staff of fraternal Qatar.

During the meeting, they discussed fraternal bilateral ties and the means of promoting them.

Prime Minister Receives Hyundai Official

JN0612213393 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] Prime Minister Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir has received (Ha), senior executive deputy chairman of the South Korean Hyundai Construction Company [title as heard], and the delegation accompanying him.

The prime minister stated that Iraq, thanks to its strong economy, the determination of its people, and the wisdom of its leader, has managed to withstand serious obstacles since the enforcement of the unfair embargo, and that it is determined to continue to walk this path until the achievement of certain victory.

The prime minister noted that Iraq is bound to the ROK by good ties. He expressed the hope that these ties will be promoted in the interest of the two friendly peoples.

The prime minister expressed Iraq's desire to maintain cooperation with the Hyundai firm and to consider outstanding bilateral issues to resolve them in the interest of the two sides. He valued the company's continued cooperation with Iraq, particularly since it has honored its commitments toward Iraq during the current circumstances.

For his part, (Ha) affirmed that his company will continue to cooperate with Iraq now and in the future. He expressed the hope that the embargo imposed on Iraq will be lifted soon.

The meeting was attended by Cabinet Secretary Hamid Salih al-Rawi and the director general of the Follow-Up Department at the Cabinet Secretariat.

'Strict Measures' Taken To Seize Banned Goods

JN0312194293 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] A responsible source at the Interior Ministry has made the following statement to the Iraqi News Agency:

As part of its ongoing campaign, and in line with the instructions issued in this regard, the Interior Ministry, represented in its competent agencies, has taken strict measures to locate and seize banned commodities. The measures are also intended to take to account of the

people who deal with these commodities and refer them to competent courts in line with the laws and decisions issued in this regard.

Columnist Urges Fasting To Thwart Merchants

JN0312213693 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic
28 Nov 93 p 2

["Rostrum" column by Rafid Haddad: "Let's Try Fasting and Boycott"]

[Text] Prices have greatly increased in our markets this month. This has been largely reflected on the purchasing powers of low-income or medium-income citizens.

The question posed is: Why this increase in prices and how did it happen? This question has drawn diversified, and sometimes conflicting, replies.

Some people say the matter is related to perpetuating the unfair embargo for two more months, to the ongoing Iraqi-UN political and technical negotiations in New York, or to the accompanying misleading and suspect campaign against Iraq.

Other people attribute this quick development to the dollar and its relationship with the convertibility in the local currency.

Others believe that the issue is linked to the scarcity of imported food commodities and its influx into Iraq due to the embargo and its restrictions. Many people, however, believe that the reason for the increase in prices is basically greedy merchants who are benefiting from the embargo and those who are exploiting the people in this crisis. These merchants and profiteers took advantage of the circumstances, for the previous reasons, and began to draw a new graph for prices. This graph could turn into a whip against citizens and a fountain that pumps money and increases these peoples' fortunes, which are the result of both the embargo and profiteering. This is confirmed by the fact that the same merchandise was on sale in the same places but with prices that had suddenly changed.

Regardless of the reasons, we do not rule out the existence of suspect motives and covert objectives that contributed to this price increase. These motives and objectives are represented by the hateful role played by some people who have no conscience, who do not care for the suffering of their homeland's sons, and who can only be called "suckers of the people's blood and the tamperers with the people's bread."

In order to teach these hateful monopolists a lesson in sacrifice and steadfastness in times of ordeals, I have the following two proposals for the sons of our enduring people:

—Everyone should refrain from purchasing important basic commodities, particularly food, and be content with the commodities in their possession, employing providence for one week, for example, thus stockpiling the merchandise possessed by the greedy ones. Let us break the economic rule that the market is based on supply and demand. Let us stop the demand, even for a limited period of time, especially since the running after purchasing will encourage the greedy ones to maintain monopoly and increase the prices.

—Every citizen should specify a day in a week or a month in which he, along with other family members, will fast. This will certainly provide much for him and foster both his providence and endurance.

Let us say that these two proposals, namely, boycott of merchandise and fasting, are an attempt by everyone to create a pressure. As we said, the two proposals may be accepted or rejected. They, however, are basically meant to find a role for us in breaking the "internal embargo" which some people are imposing on us. These proposals may also be discussed and amended. What do you think of them?

Awqaf Minister Explains RCC Law on Investments

JN0412113693 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic
30 Nov 93 p 1

[By Fawzi al-Tamimi]

[Text] Baghdad—The Revolution Command Council [RCC] has issued Law No. 18 for 1993 for the administration and investment body of the awqaf funds.

In a statement to AL-JUMHURIYAH, Awqaf and Religious Affairs Minister 'Abd-al-Mun'im Ahmad Salih said that this law is issued within the framework of the religious campaign led by mujahid leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, to provide appropriate atmosphere to protect and invest awqaf funds in accordance with the Islamic law. He added that the awqaf funds budget will be separated from the state budget and will be self-financed.

The Awqaf minister noted that the law contains 17 articles that deal with the objectives of the body in charge of the administration and investment of the awqaf funds, the requirements of this body, and its structure. He added that the law links this body, which is on the level of a state directorate, with the Awqaf and Religious Affairs Ministry and gives it a legal independent entity to run its financial affairs.

The minister said that the law defines the objectives of this body in terms of managing and investing the awqaf funds to achieve economic feasibility, to meet the conditions of the donors, and to ensure safe investing of the funds in accordance with the Islamic law.

Rabin on Postponement of 13 Dec Withdrawal

TA0612125493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005
GMT 6 Dec 93

[Report by Ya'el Ayalon, including recorded remarks by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin; date and place not given]

[Text] [Ayalon] In a reception this morning for the visiting Bulgarian president, Prime Minister Rabin addressed himself first to the public debate that followed the attorney general's statement regarding the settlers' Hashomer organization:

[Rabin] The statement issued does not contain the phrase illegal. It defines a single decision by the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip which calls for the establishment of a body called Hashomer. There is no practical or defense reason for the establishment of such an organization, which is where the attorney general is correct. We are willing to establish a civil guard in five settlements, where Israel Police will set up stations. Unfortunately, some of the Israeli settlements refuse to allow this.

[Ayalon] The prime minister was asked to confirm the report, published today in Amman, according to which Israel and the PLO have agreed to postpone the withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho by two weeks.

[Rabin] I have reason to believe that there is an understanding, on the Palestinian side as well as on the Israeli side, that in the framework of the six months determined for the implementation of the agreement on the first part of the declaration of principles—meaning Gaza and Jericho First, where two months were set for the negotiations and four months for the implementation—will not be affected by a change of date two or three weeks one way or the other.

[Ayalon] Regarding the Syrian agreement to allow a U.S. Congressional committee to investigate into the fate of the MIA's, do you view this as a special Syrian gesture, and do you believe this will give a clearer picture as to their fate?

[Rabin] Last Saturday, Secretary of State Christopher told me of the U.S. intention to raise the offer that a group of Congressional experts go looking for the Israeli MIA's in Lebanon. I was very happy with the American willingness to do so. He told me then that he will bring it up with President al-Asad. I believe that the fact that the United States initiated, following our request, handling the issue of the MIA's, and the fact the Syria agreed to that is an important step forward. This comes in parallel with our talks with the PLO, with 'Arafat, on this matter. If we, the Americans, the Syrians, the Palestinians, and the PLO all focus on looking for the MIA's—I hope it would be possible to attain the results we have been after for the past 11 years, without success. I see a great hope for the families of Baumel, Katz, and Feldman, as well as the families of other MIA's that we may—and we will—find out the truth about the fate of the MIA's.

It was no accident that I also made conditional, to some extent, the release of Palestinian prisoners and detainees on progress in finding out the whereabouts of our MIA's.

[Ayalon] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres also addressed himself to the issue of the Syrian gestures, saying that when the U.S. secretary of state returns to Israel, we will know more about their true nature.

Rabin Meets Press Following Christopher Meeting

TA0712093493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0853
GMT 7 Dec 93

[Joint news conference by Prime Minister Rabin and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem—live, in English]

[Excerpts] [Rabin] Good morning. We welcome the efforts by Secretary of State Christopher in his tour of the Middle East to bring about on track again the peace negotiation started in Madrid Conference and continued in the Washington negotiations. We expect that these efforts will bring about the continuation of the bilateral negotiations between us and the Palestinians, the PLO, and the negotiations with Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan in the proper time.

Israel is committed to the achievement of comprehensive peace based on bilateral peace treaties with the Arab countries, the neighboring Arab countries, and moving in two phases to the solution of the problem between us and the Palestinians.

I would like to thank the secretary of state for his efforts through the negotiations, in my visit in Washington, and bringing me after the discussions with him and the President a letter from the President in which he guides the American policy for the resumption of the peace negotiations and all the issues that are related to the strengthening of Israel.

I would like to thank the secretary of state for his efforts in Syria to make it possible to do better in the search of the MIA's and on other issues related to the interest of Israel as a Jewish state.

Mr. Secretary, we have had a good discussion. We know what we are trying to achieve. We are fully aware of the difficulties that still lie ahead, but I believe that together with those in the Arab side who want peace, it will be possible to overcome these difficulties. Thank you very much. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Prime Minister, can you give us some indication how you react to the gestures the secretary just [word indistinct] in Syria?

[Rabin] I don't want to go into details. I can say very clearly that we are committed to our acceptance of the letter of invitation to the Madrid Peace Conference. We were engaged in the negotiations in Washington with an effort to reach peace treaty between us and Syria. The

only question is what will be the timetable. Well, these negotiations will be resumed, and the secretary mentioned that there is something that can be reached in terms of the timing, but he will announce it only towards the end of his visit in the area.

We focus now on reaching an agreement with the Palestinians, with the PLO, about Gaza-Jericho First. This is our first priority. We want to fill what we are committed to, it is to say, to try to implement within six months from the 13 of October the Gaza-Jericho First. We believe that it is attainable. We focus in our negotiations to make sure that the security arrangements will be the kind—and in the Gaza Strip it's much easier than in Judea and Samaria.... [changes thought] We believe that what we propose gives the Palestinians the opportunity to run their life and, at the same time, to maintain, as it is written in the DOP [declaration of principles], our responsibility for maintaining all the settlements in the territories, to be the party that will carry overall responsibility for the security of the Israelis in the settlements and in the territories, and to be responsible for the external security vis-a-vis the outside areas from the territories.

[Question drowned by aircraft noise]

[Rabin] First and foremost, there is not yet a final agreement about the meeting and the date. Second, we have clear-cut position based on the DOP in regards to our security interests and about our security responsibility to the Israelis in the territories and to the external security of Israel. We will not budge from these basic principles. [passage omitted]

[Indistinct question]

[Rabin] I am not aware about any new demands or requests by the secretary to what we have discussed in the last six months. [passage omitted]

Peres Meets Christopher, Comments on Syria Talks

TA0712115693 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Report by political correspondent 'Udi Segal]

[Text] After Secretary of State Warren Christopher's talks with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, he met with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres here at the Foreign Ministry. After their meeting, Peres was asked if Christopher had brought good tidings from Damascus.

[Begin Peres recording] If you are talking about maps, then the answer is no. If you are talking about the atmosphere, then the answer is yes. That means that I believe that al-Asad made the two gestures and expressed his readiness to renew the talks in order to show Israel and other Arab states that he is still a player in the game. [end recording]

Christopher did not go into the substance of the Syrian issue, Peres said. That will be raised only around the negotiating table in Washington, he added. In reference to Jordan, Peres said that economic and political issues are inseparable and that he naturally prefers to make greater progress, but that this does not depend solely on him. [Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 7 December adds that speaking after his meeting with Warren Christopher, Peres said "that the violent events in the territories have slowed down progress in the negotiations with Jordan and the other partners."]

On negotiations with the Palestinians, Peres explained why he believes there are difficulties:

[Begin recording] [Peres] There are still differences, and in my opinion, they largely derive from a Palestinian attempt to get more in the current negotiations than what they received in Oslo. What we offered in Oslo was presented in good faith, and we have no intention of reneging on it. What we did not give then we have no intention of giving. The current negotiations must be over what was agreed on and not over something that was not agreed on.

[Segal] Will this be your message to Yasir 'Arafat when you meet him in Spain, without going into the negotiations themselves?

[Peres] I do not intend to negotiate with 'Arafat or to foster expectations, because expectations are already negotiations. [end recording]

Christopher will meet with Palestinian representatives in Jerusalem soon.

Peres on Syrian Gestures, Extremists

TA0612183193 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Knesset correspondent Eli Nisan following Peres' appearance before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee on 6 December—recorded, in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Nisan] Sir, judging by the reports about U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, can you discern a change in the Syrian position with regard to the peace process?

[Peres] We will know that after Mr. Christopher returns from Damascus. What we know at this point is that during his visit in Damascus Mr. Christopher attained two gestures concerning searches for Israel's MIA's and permits to Syrian Jews to leave the country.

[Nisan] Do you think the next round of talks between Israel and Syria will resume in Washington?

[Peres] I believe there is a reasonable chance that the Washington talks will resume. That much is reasonable, but not yet certain. We will see that when he returns to Israel.

[Nisan] Has any agreement been reached in the talks with the Palestinians about the border crossings, about who will be in charge of them in the future? Has an understanding been reached about Israel and the Palestinians exchanging drafts?

[Peres] To the best of my knowledge, we agreed in Oslo that Israel would retain responsibility for the border crossings; of course, with some sort of Palestinian presence. This is Israel's position, and this is how it should be. As for an exchange of documents, the main document is the Declaration of Principles, and the rest is implementation in the field. I have no doubt whatsoever that the main difficulty in carrying out the Oslo agreement is that the settlements, mainly in the Gaza Strip—Netzarim is one case in point—are spread out; that is the main difficulty. We are looking for solutions on the ground. This takes time, but I believe solutions will ultimately be found.

[Nisan] Mr. Peres, do you see a possibility of delaying the implementation of the agreement between Israel and the Palestinians?

[Peres] We are still doing our very best to carry it out on time. However, the test does not lie in beginning the implementation of the agreement but in ending it, which is a matter of four months. Even if there is some kind of delay in the beginning, that is no reason to delay the ending.

[Nisan] Will a delay in the beginning of the implementation drive the extremists to act against the agreement?

[Peres] The extremists do not need any push, they are quite driven as it is. One would think we were dealing with moderate extremists, but there is no such thing. They are extremists, they are demented, and they are doing whatever they can. Incidentally, these actions are totally unconnected to the Oslo agreement. The attack near Holon yesterday is in no way related to the Oslo agreement, seeing that the security forces are free and must try to do whatever they can, under tough conditions, to fight terror wherever it may occur. Attempts to attribute these terror incidents to the Oslo agreement are totally unfounded. Such incidents are politically motivated and in no way connected to the Oslo agreement.

Peres, 'Arafat To Hold Meeting in Spain 9 Dec

TA0612162093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will confer with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat on Thursday [9 December] and will discuss with him ways to overcome the difficulties in

the negotiations between Israel and the PLO. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the two will confer in Granada, Spain, where they will attend a UNESCO symposium.

Peres Not To Negotiate Peace

TA0712054893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has announced that he will not negotiate peace in his 9 December meeting with Yasir 'Arafat in Granada, Spain. 'Arafat and Peres are scheduled to participate in a UNESCO symposium on the transition from a war to a peace mentality. A UNESCO spokesman has said in Paris that 'Arafat and Peres will later hold a joint news conference.

Rabinovich on Political Aspect of Syrian Moves

TA0612124793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Telephone interview with Professor Itamar Rabinovich, ambassador to the United States and head of the delegation to the talks with Syria, by Yisra'el Segal and Arye Gus—live]

[Text] [Segal] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is bringing news from Damascus about the MIA's and the POW's and says these are humanitarian gestures. Can you draw a distinction between humanitarian and political gestures? Is this news not really a political signal?

[Rabinovich] A so-called intellectual distinction may be drawn between political and humanitarian gestures, but this particular humanitarian gesture clearly has political connotations. That much is obvious to the Americans who brought it about, to the Syrians who agreed to it, and, I suppose, it is also clear to us.

[Gus] Could these Syrian gestures—granting exit permits to 800 Syrian Jews and the promise to help a U.S. congressional commission—be the basis for similar Israeli gestures in the negotiations with Syria?

[Rabinovich] I do not think there can be similar gestures. After all, we are not holding any Syrian MIA's or information about them, and we are not preventing any people from leaving Israel.

[Gus] Perhaps gestures on a different level.

[Rabinovich] I do not think these are necessary, seeing that we regard such gestures as part of the confidence-building measures. I believe Israel made plenty of gestures toward Syria in the past year or so of the negotiations, through the pronouncements made by our leaders and our willingness to open the Israeli media to any Syrian speaker wishing to address it. In contrast, the Syrians were very stingy in carrying out their part of the deal. I hope the two developments announced last night are the beginning of a new beginning.

[Segal] Secretary Christopher says we will only know on Thursday [9 December] whether the negotiations with Syria will resume. What do you think will happen on Thursday?

[Rabinovich] On Thursday he will once again go to Damascus. Today he is scheduled to return to Israel from Jordan and to confer with the prime minister and the foreign minister.

[Segal] We know that much; those are technicalities. What will determine whether the negotiations resume or not?

[Rabinovich] The foremost issue is a decision by Syria. We have always been willing to resume the negotiations, and we have never posed any conditions.

[Gus] Sir, has Israel not said that it would like to put off dealing with the Syrian track until after the negotiations with the Palestinians are over?

[Rabinovich] No, Israel has not said it wants to put off dealing with the Syrian track. Israel has said we are approaching a point that calls for far-reaching decisions regarding an arrangement with Syria; however, we are not at that point yet. Even when the negotiations resume with Syria, we will have to go through long weeks of exhausting negotiations about details before we get down to matters of principle which call for decisions. In that respect, this is not what is at stake now. Even if by the end of the week there is an announcement about the resumption of the Washington talks, say next month, we are not yet talking about far-reaching resolutions.

[Gus] One of the Syrian conditions was that Israel spell out the extent of the withdrawal. Israel took a contrary position and demanded that Syria spell out the depth of the peace it has in mind. Has there been a breakthrough on this issue?

[Rabinovich] No, not yet. As I said before, the secretary of state and his entourage are due back, and if something happened in Damascus, we will definitely hear about it in the course of this week. We have no indication, however, that such a breakthrough has been made. All we know is that the Syrians agreed to two gestures which, as I said before, we consider part of the confidence-building measures. I think this is a positive development, but I do not think we should overstate its implications.

[Gus] In any case, a certain measure of optimism prevailed in Syria about resuming the talks, perhaps as early as January. Do you think that is possible?

[Rabinovich] It is definitely possible. The resumption of the talks has been up to Syria. If the two developments announced yesterday are the harbinger of anything, they may very well herald the resumption of the talks in January.

[Segal] Was Christopher's visit to Damascus also meant to prevent it from placing all sort of impediments on the negotiations with the Palestinians?

[Rabinovich] I do not think the Syrian president has been impeding the negotiations with the Palestinians. I believe Syria's ability to impede or sabotage the negotiations with the Palestinians and with others has been blown out of proportion. These negotiations have their own problems, and a hostile Syrian position, as well as Syria's willingness to host the rejectionist organizations in Damascus and allow them to vent their criticism of the agreement, clearly does not help. That, however, is not what is holding up the conclusion of the negotiations with the Palestinians.

[Segal] Sir, thank you very much.

Baraq on Agreement With PLO, Talks With Syria

TA0412123693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 4 Dec 93

[Report by David Essing from the "Spotlight" program]

[Text] There is no certainty the negotiations will be concluded by December 13th, that is the view of Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq. Addressing the Tel Aviv Commercial Club yesterday, General Baraq gave a detailed assessment of just where the talks stand. He spoke of complex negotiations and a wide gap, which might mean the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment would be delayed.

The chief of staff declared: Tough decisions will have to be made by both sides before the agreement can be signed and implemented. Israel was talking about the settlements in the Gaza Strip as being one bloc, with the IDF keeping security for the whole bloc, and not just of what Baraq called isolated islands. And then, there was the question of controlling border crossings and the area of Jericho, which the general said affects Israel's external security along the Jordan River itself.

However, more than anything else, the chief of staff dwelled on the difficulty of providing security for Israelis on the roads of the territories. Under the new agreement, the IDF would have no problem in safeguarding the country's external borders. The same applied, more or less, for the settlements. However, security on the roads was a different matter. The roads are an area of friction, he said, and in no way could the IDF provide an escort for the tens of thousands of vehicles traveling along hundreds of kilometers of roads in the territories. Even today, Baraq said the killing of two Israeli civilians this week showed that the IDF cannot prevent totally terrorist attacks on the roads.

And here, Baraq revealed that the brunt of the IDF's campaign to protect the roads was not on the roads, but against those planning the attacks. He said: We are pursuing them in their hiding places, with the Security Service [Shin Bet] and the undercover units. Most of the IDF's operations to hit the terrorists' capability to strike on the roads occurs long before there is an attack and long after one takes place. And here Baraq stressed that

this would not be the case after the Gaza-Jericho agreement is implemented. The conclusion was that future security on the roads assumes both an efficient Palestinian police and its readiness to cooperate with Israeli forces.

The chief of staff said: We must be aware that this is part and parcel of the general security picture, because we will not be able to operate the way we do today using the Security Service and the undercover units. With the new limitations, there was an absolute need for clarity by everyone involved; for the junior Israeli officer on patrol, for the settler in Gush Qatif, and for the Palestinian policeman, and the Palestinian resident. It had to be clear to everyone who did what, who had the authority.

Baraq gave further insights into the complexity of the situation; what do we intend to do if there is a terrorist attack or suspicion of an attack and then pursuit after an attack; and what we expect the Palestinians will do. Clarity was a must for all levels, and for the government and the public at large.

The chief of staff went on to say: We must know where we're headed, because the security issue will face a certain test the day after the agreement is signed. As for the Palestinians, they would have a responsibility to act against the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad, both in the refugee camps of the Gaza Strip and in Jericho.

The chief of staff declared: We must tell the Palestinians, the Americans, and the Egyptians in advance that what happens in Gaza and Jericho is a cardinal test for any future agreement; that we expect from the Palestinians effective cooperation against the terrorists; that we expect a PLO effort to restrain terror and rioting in other parts of Judeaea and Samaria that are not included in the agreement. Baraq also warned that Hamas and the Islamic Jihad would not only try to continue the terrorism in Gaza and Jericho, but would escalate it in other parts of Judeaea and Samaria.

In his briefing, the chief of staff also dwelled on Syria and President Hafiz al-Asad, noting that the Syrian Army has added ground-to-ground missiles with chemical warheads to its impressive arsenal, but Syria on its own had no chance of defeating Israel. And, the Syrians view Israel as having both conventional and strategic weapons' superiority. Gen. Baraq felt that with the Palestinians already negotiating and the Jordanians considering it, the Syrians were worried about missing the boat. These were factors that might nudge President al-Asad in the direction of a political settlement. But, on the other hand, al-Asad was a dictator who ruled with an iron fist. Economically, Syria was enjoying a respectable 5-percent annual growth rate, exporting oil to the tune of \$2 billion annually. The opening of Syria's borders to Israel and normalization could pose a threat to al-Asad's

authoritarian regime. The situation today was that al-Asad wants all the Golan back to the last centimeter, and he wants it quickly, like al-Sadat.

Baraq felt that al-Asad would be ready for some security arrangements. The talks would not be easy, for al-Asad was a tough and an experienced negotiator. However, the general said, the removal of Syria from the circle of hostility is a clear Israeli interest if it is attainable without harming the basis of our security. He went on to say: As long as there is a real threat of war with Syria, we need every meter of the Golan Heights, but the question is whether this is destined to last forever, no matter what happens. I say this is not self-evident, despite the fact that at present no one can say exactly how to resolve the situation. But, possibilities could arise that would mix full peace with security arrangements acceptable to both sides. This could involve IDF redeployments on the Golan, gradually implemented over a considerable period of time and in such a manner that would enable us to see if this is serious and not just a hoax.

At the same time, Baraq said, there was no certainty that such a situation would evolve, adding: It may be that fairly quickly we'll see that the Syrians are not willing or do not understand our minimal conditions to safeguard our vital security interests, and that we have no starting point. But the chief of staff also went on to say: We must be aware that trying to achieve peace with all our Arab neighbors without Syria could resemble putting out a bonfire but leaving one smoldering ember. Over time, that one ember could again flare up and rekindle the whole bonfire.

Commentary Views U.S. Focus on Syria in Talks

TA0612150293 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew
6 Dec 93 p 6

[Commentary by Pinhas 'Inbari: "What Makes Christopher Run?"]

[Excerpts] Israel is finding it hard to conceal its displeasure over U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's new shuttle mission, mainly in view of its timing. While Israel is trying to focus diplomatic efforts on implementing the agreement with the PLO, U.S. diplomacy is focusing on the negotiations with Damascus in an effort to resume the Washington talks, from which the Rabin government seems to have fled when it moved the talks with the Palestinians to Egypt.

A comparison reveals several conceptual differences between the Israeli and U.S. attitudes, and the Israeli analysis may not necessarily be the correct one. [passage omitted]

Christopher's arrival at this particular time—on the eve of the conclusion of the withdrawal agreements with the PLO—to restart the Washington talks is an indication of the U.S. belief that the Oslo agreements cannot be implemented without President al-Asad in the picture.

A close examination of the state of affairs on the eve of the beginning of the implementation of the Israeli-PLO agreements gives rise to the fear that there is a great deal of truth in the U.S. observations.

First, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat is vigorously signaling that he does not intend to implement the agreements as long as Syria defines them as "separate agreements." Although he is demanding that Israel adhere to the timetable and withdraw on the scheduled date, it is still too early to judge whether his call is meant to serve as an alibi in the future by placing the blame on Israel should the implementation fail. When examining what the PLO has done so far in preparation for its assuming responsibility for Gaza and Jericho, it is hard to avoid noticing that, in practice, it has done nothing, and there is no sign that the preparations will go into high gear anytime soon. [passage omitted]

'Arafat has just returned from a European tour, and he was disappointed. He had hoped to collect funds there to support his entry into Gaza and Jericho. The main point of his disagreement with the Europeans (perhaps with the exclusion of France) was over his request to base the Palestinian regime on Fatah—meaning a Fatah dictatorship. The Europeans asked him to establish a totally different regime, based on a democratic constitution. They rejected the structure of the proposed economic organization which was to receive the aid money because it was based on a Fatah infrastructure and not a comprehensive Palestinian one. Economic aid for the Palestinians will be delayed until 'Arafat accepts the terms set by the countries that are to provide the aid, and now 'Arafat must delay the implementation of the agreement.

This explains the developments that took place last week in Tunis. 'Arafat returned from Europe to his headquarters empty-handed and had difficulty standing up to those who are demanding reforms: Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh (who has so far been very loyal to 'Arafat), and Sulayman al-Najjab. A follow-up committee, headed by the three, was established to monitor the talks along with 'Arafat. This does not yet mean that 'Arafat has lost his standing. He is still strong, but the struggle over the shape of the Palestinian regime—between Fatah and those urging an election-based democratic regime—is also gaining strength.

Regrettably, one must point out that Israel prefers the Fatah dictatorship because of its illusion that Fatah will wage a military struggle against Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. Well, the truth is that the Fatah dictatorship will use force against the weak, not the strong. It will imprison Abu-Mazin's supporters and members of FIDA [Palestinian Democratic Union] and the Palestinian Peoples' Party, not Shaykh Ahmad Yasin or the heads of the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam squads. Knowing this, the reformists' struggle against the 'Arafat-led Fatah dictatorship will be uncompromising. Furthermore, Fatah is itself a complex organization, full of contradictions. And, more importantly, it has not yet adopted the Oslo agreements and is not taking part in the

talks on its implementation. 'Arafat may have wanted to collect the European funds through Fatah in order to get Faruq al-Qaddumi to join them. [passage omitted]

The Americans are watching the Israeli-PLO talks with a level-headed view, not expecting too much of them. There are signs that they have already reached several fundamental understandings with Syria, which motivated Christopher's arrival in the region at this time.

Anyone following the multilateral talks cannot help noticing that the United States has recently lost its enthusiasm for them. Last month, the World Bank representatives surprisingly arrived at the Copenhagen economic talks empty-handed. The World Bank is heavily influenced by the United States. The Americans have been constantly foiling European initiatives to develop the multilateral track. It appears that this policy is founded on an understanding with Syria that the multilateral track should be allowed to wither in order to return to the forsaken bilateral track in Washington. As is well known, Syria is boycotting the multilateral talks; furthermore, it appears that Saudi Arabia is going along with the U.S. efforts to abandon that track, which corresponds with Syrian policy. One of the indications of this was Saudi Arabia's pressuring Oman to renege on its agreement to host the multilateral conference on water issues. In doing so, it went beyond the United States' original intentions. Jordan exerted counterpressure on Oman and scored points in Washington.

Either way, Rabin is wrong in stating that it would not be all that terrible if the beginning of the withdrawal from Gaza is delayed by a few days. The timetable must be adhered to because the withdrawal from Gaza is in Israel's interest. A delay by a few days will not change the awkward state of the talks with the PLO. This is where the U.S. view is correct: The Palestinians cannot—and do not want to—carry the burden of talks with Israel all alone, and they wish to return to the network of pan-Arab coordination. This will place the burden on Israel, but difficult negotiations resulting in solid agreements are far better than easy negotiations ending with results built on quicksand.

Government, Private Investments on Golan Continue

TA0512101193 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT
(MAMON supplement) in Hebrew 5 Dec 93 p 15

[Report by Yisra'el Tomer]

[Text] During 1994, the number of Jewish residents of the Golan Heights will rise by some 30 percent when new apartments, currently in the final stages of their construction, will be inhabited. Some 4,000 people will then join the current population of 13,500.

This was reported by Yehuda Volman, head of the Golan Regional Council, during a tour of the Golan he held with members of the Knesset Economy Committee.

Speedy construction works on the Golan continues even in these days of uncertainty. Some 1,700 new apartments are currently being built there—following decisions made when Ari'el Sharon was construction and housing minister. Some 700 of the apartments are being built in Qatzrin, and the rest in other settlements. The new apartments will be inhabited during the first months of 1994.

Qatzrin Local Council Head Sami Bar-Lev has said that, although the future of the Golan Heights is not clear, there is wide demand for the new apartments.

Some 350 apartments, half of those under construction, have been purchased over the past several months in Qatzrin alone. The apartments are very cheap. An 85-square meter apartment costs some 130,000 shekels (some \$44,000). The land is free and development and infrastructure costs are subsidized by the government.

Apartments purchased from the Construction and Housing Ministry are financed up to 95 percent of their price, which explains high demand by young couples and new immigrants.

In addition to massive Housing Ministry investments in apartments and infrastructure, investments in industry continue as well. A new chocolate plant is being constructed in Qatzrin, to provide some 150 jobs.

Furthermore, the heads of the Golan Heights settlements have asked the Knesset committee members to help them obtain additional government aid to prevent private investors from leaving the region.

They presented the finance minister with a request for 50 million shekel in special aid for the expansion of existing industry, tourist facilities, and municipal infrastructure.

[Writing on page 3 of Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 5 December, Yosef Galili adds that "the largest cow shed in the Middle East was inaugurated Friday in Kibbutz Ortal." The cow shed belongs to three Golan kibbutzim: Merom Golan, Ortal, and Elrom. The Jewish Agency and the Agriculture Ministry Construction participated in providing the 14 million shekels of the construction costs.]

Editorial Hopes for Revival of Madrid Formula

TA0512114093 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Dec 93 p B1

[Editorial: "Warren Christopher's Test"]

[Text] The decision by the U.S. secretary of state to devote an entire week to a tour of Middle East capitals is important for more than the tour itself; it is particularly commendable when it comes against the background of the State Department's passivity in view of the slow pace of the peace process. Most probably, the U.S. officials who deal with Middle East affairs refrained from closely following the discussions of the bilateral committees. In

any event, they were unable to prevent the freeze, and the higher echelons were reluctant to take the initiative to thaw it.

Typical of this indecision was Washington's reaction to the Syrian announcement that it is not sending its representatives to the 12th round of bilateral talks with Israel because it might prove as "futile" as the 11th before it. In response to this declaration, the U.S. leadership withheld the invitations for the resumption of the negotiations on all tracks and thus, in fact, suspended the entire Madrid process. Nevertheless, the United States cannot live with a prolonged freeze, especially after Israel began dealing with the Palestinian issue—at least part of it, Gaza and Jericho—outside the Madrid framework, and threatens to do the same with Jordan.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher will, therefore, aspire to put the peace process back on its original track. At the same time—since he has no business in disturbing Israel's attempts to leave Gaza as fast as possible, and since the Jordanian track is the less problematic of all anyway—he will devote most of his efforts to thawing the freeze on the northern fronts, Syria and Lebanon.

Formally, Christopher will attempt to convince President Hafiz al-Asad to stop boycotting the bilateral talks with Israel. There is doubt whether he will succeed when Israel keeps insisting that the Golan Heights should not be discussed as long as Syria does not clarify the type of peace with Israel acceptable to it.

Current impression is that the prime minister has shifted his focus of attention. It may well be that removing the aspect of the "nature of peace" from the center of discussion will free the atmosphere of concerns that are mainly prestigious—for both sides. If al-Asad absolutely cannot have an Israeli flag hoisted in Damascus, Israel can live without a Syrian embassy in Jerusalem. Al-Asad demands that Israel pull out of the entire Golan Heights, at least; Israel is willing to concede to a partial withdrawal. When the deputy foreign minister forecasts that some of the Golan Heights residents will live under Syrian sovereignty and others under Israeli sovereignty, it means that he also supports territorial compromise.

Syrian military presence in Lebanon should not be of particular concern to Israel as long as the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] controls the entire plateau. If, however, this symmetry—Israel on the Golan and Syria in Beirut—goes out of balance, burdening Israel alone with a demand for concessions would be unjustified. No one should expect Israel to make concessions on the Golan issue when the Syrian regime protects Palestinian rejectionist organizations and employs the Hizballah to pressure Israel.

These are all negotiable issues, even if al-Asad is expected to bring up his demand that the Golan Heights be returned to Syria along the lines of the Israeli-Egyptian peace accord.

The U.S. secretary of state may well be convinced by the prime minister's arguments, but it is not at all certain that the Syrian president would be willing to resume the Madrid process without an Israeli agreement, in advance, to fully withdraw from the Golan Heights.

This is Warren Christopher's test. The fact that he came to the region on a Kissinger-like shuttle mission indicates that he wishes to attain results. It appears that the United States does not accept the prime minister's wish that negotiations with Syria be held up for several more months. It is very important that Israel avoid creating the impression that it does not want the Madrid process revived.

Radio Reports Attacks on Israeli Civilians

Father, Son Killed Near Hebron

TA0612203993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] The security forces are conducting searches for the perpetrators of the Hebron and Giv'at Ze'ev attacks. Two Israeli civilians were killed and five were wounded in the two attacks in Judaea and Samaria. One attack was near Hebron's Giv'at Haharsina where a father and son were killed, and three other sons were wounded. They were transferred to Hadassah-En Kerem Hospital. Our correspondent 'Ofra Nehmad reports that one of the sons sustained medium wounds while the other two were lightly injured.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the other attack was at the al-Jib junction north of Jerusalem, en route to Giv'at Ze'ev, where two Israeli civilians were slightly injured when a firebomb was hurled at a bus. The bomb ignited in the bus, wounding two passengers and causing damage to the bus.

A curfew was imposed on the Hebron region. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that the chief of staff, the deputy chief of staff, and the commander of the Central Command arrived at the site of the Hebron attack. The demonstrators, residents of Qiryat Arba', have stopped demonstrating, but earlier there were several confrontations between them and television crews, in which three crew members were hurt. Opposition Knesset members, as well as Labor Knesset Member Salih Tarif, came to the site of the attack.

Demonstrators gathered to protest the government's policy in Jerusalem, in several locations in the Dan region, and at two junctions in the south. There were protests outside the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem and near the prime minister's home, but our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that the police closed the street where the residence is located. There were also demonstrations in Tel Aviv, Bat Yam, and Ramat Gan, and at the al-Qastina and Bilu junctions in the south, but traffic was not affected.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 2030 GMT on 6 December adds that "dozens of Jewish settlers rioted at the junction at the entrance to Hebron, stoning Arab cars and congregating at the site, but the area is now quiet." The report quotes Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres as saying in reference to the Hebron attack that "there is no connection between the peace process and the attacks in the territories. There were attacks before the peace process started, he said."]

Rabin Reacts to Hebron Attack

TA0612191693 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Report by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem]

[Text] Warren Christopher is due to arrive here at any moment unless he stops over from the airport at one of Jerusalem's excellent restaurants. We are now, however, dealing with the Hebron attack. We have an initial reaction from the prime minister, who told us a short time ago that he will continue to implement the Gaza and Jericho First plan. He said we must carry out the first stage of the agreement with the PLO in order to find out whether we can continue to implement it. We asked Mr. Rabin about the settlers' claim that arming the Palestinian police will only increase terrorism.

[Begin Rabin recording] I have no doubt that the Palestinians who carried out that horrible murder have only one aim, to create a chain of events which will bring about a halt to the political negotiations. In reference to the settlers' claim: What will happen if what we want to happen—the Gaza and Jericho First plan—does come about? What is now happening is already hard to take. The fact is that without a single weapon being given to any Palestinian element in the territories, we are witnessing the use of arms, some of which, like explosives, are being made from materials which can be bought off the shelf. [end recording]

These were some of the remarks made by Mr. Rabin. In reference to the issue of whether the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip is a seditious body, as the attorney general has charged, Mr. Rabin said he concurs with the attorney general. In the prime minister's view, the latest actions and statements by the council are seditious.

Right Wing Reacts to Hebron Attack

TA0612192093 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Announcer-read report]

[Excerpts] Right-wing parties have issued furious reactions to the terror attack in Hebron. The National Religious Party [NRP] says: The devil is dancing to the tune of the battle cries of ministers who demand cracking

down on the settlers. The government will not be able to claim innocence, the NRP says.

The Likud says that the government is conducting a slack policy, while Moledet demands to terminate the contacts with the PLO until terror ceases. [passage omitted]

Palestinian sources told our correspondent this evening that the attack on the settlers in Hebron was to have been expected as revenge for the murder of Talal al-Bakri in the city two days ago. The sources added that the murderous attack was carried out by members of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement].

Fatah Hawks Pledge Continued Struggle

TA0312194393 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 3 Dec 93 p 3

[Report by David Regev]

[Excerpts] Fugitive Salim al-Wafi, formerly from the Islamic Jihad who had become one of the Fatah Hawks leaders, was yesterday officially appointed commander of the Gaza Strip Fatah Hawks, replacing Taysir al-Bardini who had been captured by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. This was reported yesterday by Arab sources.

Yesterday the Fatah Hawks again held protest marches in southern Gaza Strip. In two mass processions in the Shabura neighborhood in Rafah, they fired in the air and called for continuing the struggle until their commander Taysir al-Bardini is released and fugitives are no longer hunted. [passage omitted]

The Fatah Hawks' recent acts were yesterday endorsed by their Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] comrades. A leaflet disseminated throughout the Strip by the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam squad congratulated the Fatah Hawks on their decision to resume activities against the security forces and urged them to join Hamas.

Conversely, the Fatah leaders in the Strip yesterday pursued their efforts to restore calm in the area. Ihab al-Ashqar, one of the Fatah leaders, met with Fatah Hawks in Rafah and urged them to obey PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's directives. The Fatah leaders announced that the security forces in the Gaza Strip would make new gestures toward the local population at the beginning of next week, including the reopening of a number of streets obstructed with barrels. [passage omitted]

Quiet prevailed yesterday in the Gaza Strip, with the exception of a number of incidents and attempted attacks in which no one was injured. In the Jabalyah refugee camp, unknown persons fired at an IDF outpost. No one was hurt, and no damage was caused. Shots were also fired at an IDF patrol in the al-Mughazi refugee camp, causing no injuries. [passage omitted]

The security forces yesterday closed two Gaza schools after disturbances were staged by students. The commercial strike's second day ended yesterday when Fatah

representatives arrived in downtown stores and announced that the strike was over.

The Gaza Military Court yesterday handed down four life sentences plus 20 years on 20-year-old 'Abasan resident Fu'ad Dahhama, a Fatah Hawks member. He had been convicted of murdering four local residents suspected of collaboration with Israel and of throwing a fragmentation grenade at IDF soldiers.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 0500 GMT on 3 December adds that "last night, four firebombs were thrown at an Egged bus as it drove by Bayt Jala near Bethlehem. Two of the bombs exploded near the vehicle. No one was hurt. Soldiers accompanying the bus opened fire.

["In East Jerusalem, two petrol bombs were thrown at a Border Police patrol as it passed by Abu-Dis. There were no damages or injuries.

["Also no injuries when a Molotov cocktail was thrown at an Israeli car traveling near Alfey Menashe. The car itself caught fire, but the driver was able to extinguish the flames.

["In Hebron, several shots were fired at the car of a resident of the settlement of Susya. Again, no injuries."]

New Settler Group Advocates 'Mainstream Values'

TA0612115393

[Editorial Report] Writing on page A5 of Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 6 December, Nadav Shragay reports that "Tekhelet [light blue], a circle established by 'Ezryon Bloc and central Israel inhabitants," yesterday held a news conference in Jerusalem "calling on the government, the political parties, and the Israeli public to revert to mainstream values, rejecting the radicalism of both the 'not an inch' and the 'back to the 1967 borders' approaches."

A communique issued by the new group enumerates the perils of the agreement with the Palestinians, noting however that "since the agreement is an accomplished and a binding fact, Israel must avert its dangers by investing efforts in the field of public relations and in the political and professional spheres as it negotiates the agreement's details."

"Members of the Tekhelet circle said they take a grave view of the activities of the Jewish radical elements in Hebron. Me'ir Krauss, head of the new group, said: 'Terror is terror, and it does not matter on which side it occurs. This kind of conduct is a moral and a political mistake.'"

IDF Authorizes Reopening of 8 Gaza Streets

TA0712055193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is permitting Gaza residents to unseal eight streets and alleys. Our

correspondent Moti Amir reports that the Gaza city governor has advised local representatives that the IDF is willing to grant their request to have the seals removed by Gaza building contractors rather than IDF soldiers.

Bulgarian President Zhelev Arrives for Visit

AU0512185293 Sofia BTA in English 1820 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Report by Evgeniya Manolova: "Bulgarian President in Israel"]

[Text] Jerusalem, December 5 (BTA)—Bulgarian President Dr. Zhelyu Zhelev today arrived on an official visit here. He was several hours late due to fog at Sofia airport. The Bulgarian delegation includes National Assembly Deputy Chairmen Snezhana Botusharova and Yordan Shkolagerski and the Ministers of Foreign Affairs Stanislav Daskalov, of Territorial Development and Construction Khristo Totev and of Justice Petur Kornazhev.

Dr. Zhelev and his wife were welcomed by President Ezer Weizman and his wife. In brief addresses, the two presidents expressed certainty the visit will help strengthen bilateral relations in the political and economic fields, leading to specific agreements. Bulgaria, which rescued its Jews from the Nazi Holocaust, ranks among Israel's best friends, said Mr. Weizman.

The sides are expected to sign an accord on reciprocal investment protection and promotion and an agreement on a visa-free entry for holders of diplomatic and business passports. They will discuss cooperation in tourism. Minister Totev will discuss prospects to cooperation among Bulgarian and Israeli construction firms.

Later today, Mr. Zhelev held talks with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on reciprocal investment in tourism. They exchanged views on developments in the two countries. Dr. Zhelev and the Bulgarian delegation laid wreaths and paid tribute to the grave of Theodor Herzl, founder of Zionism and of the first Jewish settlements in Palestine in late 19th century. Later today Mr. Zhelev met with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. This evening President Weizman gave an official dinner for his Bulgarian guest. The two heads of state drank toasts, emphasizing the prospects to Bulgarian-Israeli relations and the historical roots of mutual respect between Bulgarians and Jews.

In his talks with leading Israeli politicians, attended by Foreign Minister Daskalov, Dr. Zhelev stressed current Bulgarian foreign policy prioritizes the preservation of peace in the politically volatile Balkan region and the strengthening of stability and security in Europe, which would help Bulgaria's speedier integration into European structures. Bulgaria hails the beginning of the peaceful process in the Middle East and the constructive search for a lasting, comprehensive and fair settlement of the Middle East problem, which would respect the interests of all countries and nations in the region, Dr. Zhelev said. President Zhelev expressed his conviction that good-neighbourliness and understanding are the sincere choice of the Israeli state and that the Middle East will find a formula of peaceful co-existence and cooperation.

The members of the delegation tomorrow begin parallel talks on specific aspects of cooperation. President Zhelev will pay tribute to the victims of the holocaust, address the Knesset and meet with opposition leader Beniamin Netanyahu.

'Arafat, Christopher Hold Joint News Conference

'Arafat: Christopher Meeting 'Positive'

JN0612194993 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1813 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat this evening met with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher at the U.S. Embassy building. Details are in the following report by our political affairs correspondent:

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the recent developments in the peace process, especially the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on implementing the Palestinian-Israeli agreement—which includes the Gaza-Jericho First option—and the obstacles facing these negotiations. They also discussed the U.S. efforts to narrow the gaps at these negotiations, as well as expediting the release of Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons. Talks also covered U.S. efforts with the World Bank and international organizations to offer grants and aid to the occupied territories for reconstruction.

In the joint news conference, 'Arafat praised His Majesty King Husayn's efforts and his majesty's support for the Palestinian issue in all fields.

[Begin recording] ['Arafat] It is my pleasure to meet with Mr. Christopher here in Amman, in this fraternal country with which we have the firmest and strongest ties. From here, I want to send my greetings to His Majesty King Husayn who has facilitated such a meeting. This meeting was a positive and fruitful one. We talked very freely and very frankly. I want to thank Mr. Christopher for the patience he demonstrated when he listened to all our troubles, whether regarding the escalation in our occupied territories, or concerning the difficulties and problems we are encountering during the talks. I have asked his excellency to convey our assurances to Mr. Clinton that we are determined to continue with the peace process. We have also agreed on the importance of the efforts exerted by Mr. Christopher and the U.S. Administration, in general, to narrow the gaps between us and the Israelis at the negotiations.

[Christopher, in English] In my talks with Mr. 'Arafat, he made it clear that he is determined not to allow this opportunity to slip away and to keep focused on achieving concrete results. It is essential that the Palestinians be prepared now to make the key political and economic decisions and the chairman and I discussed those. They're difficult decisions and I know he faces many difficulties in confronting them. But, when those decisions are taken, the international community can help more quickly to develop the territories and to help the Palestinians build the essential institutions. Credible structures to receive the assistance need to be put in place. The chairman enlightened me about the structures that he's been setting up to receive and handle the assistance. So, it was a useful meeting, particularly in that respect. [end recording]

The Palestinian president and the U.S. secretary of state left Amman a short while ago.

'Arafat Queried on 13 Dec Deadline

JN0612211193 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2010 GMT 6 Dec 93

[From "the News at Ten" program]

[Excerpts] His majesty the king and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher discussed latest developments in the peace process during talks at the Royal Court. [passage omitted]

Christopher later held a meeting with Palestine President Yasir 'Arafat and discussed several issues at the top of which was implementation of the Israel-PLO peace accord.

During the two-hour meeting, 'Arafat appealed for U.S. assistance in getting Israel to stick to the December 13th withdrawal deadline. While Christopher said he would pass on Palestinian concerns to the Israelis, he added it was important that no party try to impose itself in PLO-Israeli discussions.

At a press conference following the talks, 'Arafat said a Palestinian police force would in place for the December deadline.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Chairman 'Arafat, could you, number one, tell us if you are willing to be flexible on the December 13th date, and, have you officially asked for American help to intervene with the Israelis on the issue of the 13th deadline?

['Arafat] First of all, you have to ask Mr. Rabin to be flexible, not me. I haven't the upper hand. He is occupying my land, and he has to withdraw according to the DOP [Declaration of Principles] which we have signed. We hope that we will have the flexibility from their side, and definite we have asked his excellency to interfere with all his capacity, so that we can find the solution for all the obstacles which we face now in the negotiations.

[Reporter] Mr. Chairman, do you think that you genuinely have in place the ability to take over the police force, other administrative functions, and so on December 13th. The reports we see from Tunis suggest that you may not necessarily have all those things in place?

['Arafat] Our security forces had already started their training here in Amman, in Cairo, in Sanaa, in Tunisia, in Algiers, in many other places, and we will be very able to move directly the moment we will agree upon, and we hope to be very soon, not more than 13th of December.

[Christopher] Well, in the first place, I think that Chairman 'Arafat did not ask me to interfere. I've said before that the agreement was negotiated between the Israelis and the PLO. They are the best ones to interpret the provisions. They are having face-to-face discussions

with respect to that and so I think it's quite important that no one try to interpose themselves in those discussions. All that being said, I heard the urgency that the chairman attaches to a prompt conclusion of the first set of agreements and, certainly when I see Prime Minister Rabin I will pass on to him the concern that Chairman 'Arafat has for a prompt resolution of the outstanding issues. I think that that will not put me in a position of interfering in any way with the parties. Thank you. [end recording]

President 'Arafat and Secretary Christopher later left Amman at the end of the talks.

Economic Accord With Jordan 'Premature'

JN0712112893 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 7 Dec pp 1, 10

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivkanand]

[Text] Amman—Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat Monday [6 December] described the talks he held Sunday night with His Majesty King Husayn as very warm and positive, but dodged a question when he would endorse a draft accord on economic cooperation between the planned interim Palestinian autonomous territory and the Kingdom.

Answering questions at a brief press conference at the U.S. embassy after meeting Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Mr. 'Arafat said Jordanian-Palestinian relations were "very strong" and did not depend on "signing an agreement here or an agreement there."

He cited a Jordanian Palestinian confederation as the ultimate objective as endorsed in 1983 by the Palestine National Council (PNC), and implied that any agreement discussed or under review by six joint committees, including a panel on economic cooperation, was not a major factor as long as such a Jordanian-Palestinian relationship remained as the goal.

Informed PLO sources said Mr. 'Arafat's argument was that it was premature to finalise the draft economic agreement. His point is that the PLO "has only received promises and pledges and it has nothing in hand," and therefore has to hold out for "as much concrete assistance as possible" before committing himself into any accord.

Furthermore, Mr. 'Arafat also argues that any agreement with Jordan should be within the framework of a future confederation between two sovereign entities.

Jordanian officials have made no secret of their desire to have the document endorsed as soon as possible so that the Kingdom could go ahead with groundwork needed to assume supervision of the banking and currency affairs of the occupied territories.

The PLO sources said none of the "inner circle" of 'Arafat favoured the PLO chairman's quest for independent Palestinian monetary authorities to be set up during the interim five-year autonomy period in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"The dominant feeling among PLO experts is that no time should be wasted in signing the accord with Jordan if only because it would remove a lot of uncertainties from among Palestinians who are in a position and are willing to contribute materially and otherwise to building Palestinian economy," said a source close to the PLO chairman.

However, some of the 'Arafat aides agree with the argument of the PLO leader that he should not sign any agreement with any party lest such accord could be used by Israel to deny Palestinian nationhood.

But that point does not have any bearing on the economic accord, Jordanian officials say. They say that the principles included in the draft accord do not preclude Palestinian sovereignty and "leave all options open for the Palestinians," as one of them put it.

In the meantime, they say, Jordan has a genuine concern and cause to have a say in the monetary and banking affairs of the Palestinian territories.

"After all the Jordanian dinar is in circulation there, and any uncoordinated currency moves could reflect badly on Jordan," said a senior official. "We cannot just sit with our arms folded and wait impassively to let things take their own course."

Unconfirmed reports said Mr. 'Arafat had summoned Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, head of the PLO's Economic Department, to Amman to look closer into the draft economic accord. Senior PLO sources could not confirm the reports, but one of them said: "That means more delay in finalising the document."

'Arafat on Need To Keep Momentum Going

JN0712101993 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 7 Dec 93 p 1

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Lamis K. Andoni]

[Text] Amman—Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat Monday [6 December] insisted that there should not be any delay in the implementation of the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) autonomy accord, but it appeared that he was waiting for Israeli responses to some conditions he sent through U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

He said Israel should pull out from Gaza Strip and Jericho next week and challenged Israeli leaders to take steps to enable the two sides to implement the historic accord signed in Washington on Sept. 13.

In a brief joint press conference after a meeting with Mr. Christopher, Mr. 'Arafat appeared unwilling to concede to Israel's demand to delay its pullout later than Dec. 13.

But the PLO chairman, who is said to be aware that deadline will not be met, was apparently trying to ensure that some kind of change takes place on the ground by Dec. 13 to maintain support for the process among the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Mr. 'Arafat appealed publicly to Mr. Christopher to help start an Israeli withdrawal next week.

The U.S. official stayed away, publicly at least, from siding with either side but promised to convey Mr. 'Arafat's view to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

But Mr. Christopher said that he has heard "the urgency that the chairman attaches to a prompt conclusion... and certainly when I see Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin I will pass on to him the concern that Chairman 'Arafat has."

Meanwhile in Israel Mr. Rabin seemed confident that the PLO would have to accept a two- or three-week delay.

"I am convinced that a delay of about two weeks to reach an accord on the application of the first phase, that is to say that Gaza and Jericho first, is something that is understood between the two sides," he said.

From the PLO viewpoint, according to Palestinian officials, if a delay takes place it will be a de facto delay dictated by Israel rather than an understanding between the two sides.

Although it was not possible last night to learn about the actual 'Arafat-Christopher talks, the statements indicated that Mr. 'Arafat had stuck to his guns and insisted that Israel address the sticking points to pave the way for the implementation of the accord on time.

He pointed out that the three stumbling blocs remained the dispute over the Jericho area that will be included in Palestinian autonomy, the release of Palestinian political prisoners and Israeli withdrawal.

According to PLO officials, Mr. 'Arafat did not expect Israel to adhere to the deadline but was going to insist at least to start some sort of process on Dec. 13, even if by beginning with initial tiny steps.

"Something has to start on that date or else the situation could blow out of hand," said one PLO official. "A partial withdrawal or even the beginning of the return of PLO personnel could keep the momentum going."

In an attempt to fend the pressure on him to formally accept a delay, Mr. 'Arafat threw the ball back into the Israeli court holding Mr. Rabin responsible for obstructing the process.

Asked by a journalist if he was ready to show flexibility, Mr. 'Arafat shot back: "This question should be asked to

Mr. Rabin. He is the one who has to be flexible, he has the upper hand (because he is the one) occupying my land."

Sources close to the PLO leaders said that he was seriously concerned that a delay, especially by his own consent, could undermine faith in the process and in the PLO among the Palestinians.

They said any sort of a symbolic beginning of the implementation, within a clear timetable of the actual withdrawal, could make a difference to Mr. 'Arafat's position.

Both Mr. Christopher and Mr. 'Arafat said that they discussed Palestinian preparations in terms of setting up the economic structures to receive the assistance.

Mr. Christopher made positive hints about the progress of the Palestinian preparations, but indicated that more key economic and political decisions need to be made by the Palestinians.

But he also pointed out that "credible structures were needed," in a strong allusion to the apparent lack of confidence in the way the PLO was setting up councils and committees.

Mr. 'Arafat is believed to have complained to Mr. Christopher about the delay of funds from donors who have pledged to finance the Palestinian autonomy.

Thus in his public statements Mr. Christopher responded that the Palestinians should first take key decisions and form the necessary structures. "Once these decisions are made, the international (community) can help more quickly," Mr. Christopher said.

But PLO officials said, that Mr. 'Arafat was unwilling to concede to donors' demands that he leave the decisions for experts and economists.

Palestinian Envoy: Christopher Talks 'Fruitful'

NC0612205193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1845 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] Amman, 6 Dec (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat left Amman this evening following a visit to Jordan during which he met with King Husayn and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, Palestinian ambassador to Jordan, told a MENA correspondent that 'Arafat's talks with Christopher were fruitful and serious. The Palestinian side emphasized its support for the continuation of the peace process.

He said that the Palestinian president affirmed that Israel must prove its support for peace because Palestinians are still being killed in the occupied territories, there is no withdrawal yet, the date is not sacred [as received], and the Palestinian people have not felt any change.

The Palestinian official said that 'Arafat briefed Secretary Christopher about the economic structures that the PLO has established and affirmed that the Palestinian economy will be free. 'Arafat answered many questions from the American delegation with complete frankness.

'Abd-al-Rahim said that Christopher will visit the Jericho area tomorrow. He will also meet with some members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations at the delegation's offices in Jerusalem. He noted that 'Arafat and Christopher will resume their talks in Tunis next Friday.

Husayn, Christopher Hold News Conference 6 Dec

CM0712152893 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2020 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Joint news conference by King Husayn and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher with unidentified reporters; "after their talks" in Amman on 6 December—recorded]

[Text] [Husayn] Our meetings went extremely well. Our talks were, as always, frank, friendly, and in the spirit of partners seeking a common objective for a better future for all the peoples of this region. Once again, sir, a very hearty welcome.

[Christopher] Thank you. I express great gratitude on the part of myself and all the members of the party from the United States for the warm hospitality of King Husayn and all the members of his government. We've, I think, become accustomed to the warmth of this hospitality, which is only matched by this beautiful day, but we certainly appreciate that, Your Majesty, it's wonderful to be here again. We had a good conversation. A good deal of it was devoted, of course, to the peace process. All who are here know that the king has long been a leader in the peace process, and the signing of the agenda, initialing of the agenda in Washington between Israel and Jordan, was a very important step. The king indicated that he desires to proceed in a deliberate but effective way, to move forward in the peace process. We discussed the need for a comprehensive peace, and I told the king of President Clinton's commitment in this area, that before I left the United States the message that President Clinton gave to me was to emphasize to all the leaders of this region the United States' commitment to a comprehensive peace and his direction to me to work in that regard.

We discussed economic issues at some length. As you know, we discussed investment issues, trade issues. We discussed the tremendous promise of tourism for this area, which could create a whole new industry and create literally hundreds of thousands of jobs. We discussed also a donors conference which is going to play an important part in the development of the West Bank and the World Bank's leadership of developments in this area.

We discussed a number of options such as a possible calling of conferences in the trade and investment area. So, I would say, economics developed, occupied a good deal of our discussion. A third area we discussed was military issues and military relationship with the United States cooperating with Jordan and looking toward meetings in 1994 where that cooperation would be enhanced. So, all in all it was a very useful meeting between countries who had a long friendly relationship. Thank you again, Your Majesty.

[Husayn] Thank you, sir.

[Reporter] Mr. Secretary, in light of the confrontations in the occupied territories, do you think that time is on our side to achieve peace, or is the process losing ground? That's my question number one, sir. And, the second one is about Jordan. When do you expect the lifting of the U.S. blockade to the Gulf of Aqaba, taking into consideration that we've heard a lot about taking care of this issue several times, but there is no practical steps yet. Thank you.

[Christopher] I think the difficulties that have taken place in the last several days in the occupied territories are a reminder of the need to move with determination. We must move deliberately and carefully so we are certain that all the hard questions are answered in advance if they can be. At the same time, I think we see the need to reach conclusions so that the citizens of the area can appreciate the benefits of peace and so it's complex process of balancing the need to move rapidly with the need to move carefully and with deliberation. I feel that, in an overall sense, we are certainly not losing ground, we are gaining ground by reason of the developments during 1993, the agreement between Israel and the Palestinians, and the progress that we have made in an overall sense. But having said that, I am not at all complacent. I think everyone here understands that we must reach agreements as soon as possible, but they must be good agreements.

On your second question, we discussed that issue at lunch and heard from the king and his advisers about the importance of addressing it. Assistant Secretary Frank Wisner... [pauses] I'm sorry, Undersecretary Frank Wisner was here in the last few days and that issue was discussed there as well. So, I think we take back to Washington with us a very strong need to address this issue and to recognize that the blockade is visiting severe consequences on Jordan of an unintended kind and we must try to find some resolution for that.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, in light of what Mr. Secretary mentioned about the economic and touristic discussions, how long will it be before we can see an Israeli-Jordanian peace agreement signed, and what are the real obstacles? Thank you.

[Husayn] I believe, sir, that the historic meeting in Washington between the Palestinians and the Israelis and the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people there with the prime minister of Israel, the

handshakes, the mutual recognition, and the agreement were really the most important recent development. As you know, Jordan had held back on ratifying an agenda to discuss all issues as they relate to Jordan pending progress with regard to Palestinians and Palestinian rights on Palestinian soil; in other words, the Palestinian-Israeli dimension of the problem, which is the root cause of the problem in this region. This has happened and we shortly thereafter ratified the agenda and work is going on at many, many levels and with a determination to continue positive movement to address all the problems that need to be addressed. Our view has been, and we believe we are right, that peace should come as the crowning achievement of resolving all these problems. And already considerable ground has been covered, and more will be covered in the times ahead, and I hope that, eventually, it will be a very, very important element, hopefully in the context of the comprehensive peace that all of us are searching for and working for.

[Reporter] Mr. Secretary, there have been reports about Israel and the PLO agreeing to postpone, or delay by two weeks, the December 13 deadline for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the occupied territories, Gaza and Jericho. Do you think there is need for a delay and two weeks are enough for that?

[Christopher] Well, I have seen those reports, but, you know, those discussions are taking place between the Israelis and the Palestinians, and they would be the best source of information as to whether any delay is necessary and how much delay. I think they are anxious to proceed. What I heard from Prime Minister Rabin was a sense of the importance of staying on the overall target set down by the declaration of principles, but recognizing that they have some very difficult questions to resolve in the six-month period that started on the 17th of August and continued into next year.

[Reporter] I may address a question to King Husayn: Sir, I'm just curious why, in light of what you just said about moving a lot of work going on at many levels toward a peace agreement with Israel, why is it that your meeting with Prime Minister Rabin was kept secret? Why would you not engage in a public meeting at this point as part of the movement toward the crowning achievement you just spoke of?

[Husayn] Sir, I would like to go back to 1967, to the time we came out of the war, and decided to do everything and anything that was possible to bring about a solution to the problem, particularly in terms of the occupied West Bank, including Jerusalem and Gaza. This was a decision taken by me and the leader of Egypt then, the late President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir, and that this would take precedence over anything else at that time, including the Sinai and the Gulf; in other words, the Suez Canal as well.

[Resolution] 242 came, and I have been saying time and again since that to my utter satisfaction and at all times I have had a clear conscience. I have tried everything. I

have opened every door possible, short of ratifying a separate peace, which was excluded at that time because we were looking for a comprehensive one.

We helped formulate 242, and I have never had any difficulty with the principle of meeting anyone in this world, knowing where I stand in defense of what I believe I should defend, and in other words, the rights of people I'm responsible for, but also the rights of all regarding the future.

But if the ground rules are that contacts, whatever form they take, should not be made public until such time as there is a reason to do so, then I'll adhere to that. But, believe me, and I hope our Palestinian brethren in the occupied territories will realize one day that there isn't anything that I haven't done to try to help bring about a just, honorable, and lasting peace in this region. Beyond that, you've heard the Israelis' response to these allegations or suggestions, and you've heard ours. So, maybe a time will come when all will be clear. Thank you.

[Reporter] Mr. Secretary, you've mentioned the possibility of a donors conference. Will it be similar to that which was to help the Palestinians to develop their economy? And did you discuss any figures of how big the donations are going to be? And is the United States doing anything to restore Arab economic aid, Arab financial aid to Jordan? [Christopher] There are a lot of questions there. Before I answer it, it is not often you get a chance to correct yourself before I get too far away from that unless you think that I've been overcome completely by jet lag, the declaration of principles was signed on October 13th, not August 13th. [Laughter] September, I'll get it right before long. Jet lag, jet lag. Thank you.

You know I used the conference term as one of the options that was under discussion. And it would not be, I think, primarily a donors conference, but more likely, a conference involving trade, and investment, and tourism, and the possibility of development in this kind of area. But that was only a for instance that was discussed during the course of our meetings today. And because it is an idea that is simply in the process of exploration, that there were no particular figures used about such a conference. Now, on your other question, I think with respect to aid to Jordan, I did indicate that we've begun consultations on Capital Hill with respect to the aid to Jordan in next year, and that is something that we hope can go forward in the new spirit of the relationship between the United States and Jordan.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, I have a follow-up question please.

[Husayn] Go ahead.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, I wonder, you have been meeting in the last day with Yasir 'Arafat. I wonder if you can give us some of the results of your discussions

how Jordan is going to relate to the emerging political and economic entities in the Gaza, in Jericho, and in the West Bank.

[Husayn] I cannot give you much detail, sir, because we have not covered much ground except that once again I heard from President 'Arafat his desire to immediately start working on all the committees that need to come together to face up to the challenges ahead of us. I will probably have another meeting with him later this evening after he meets the secretary.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, did you ask for any particular, specific assurances from the United States either in terms of using its good offices with the Israelis to achieve some of the objectives that you have sought in the talks in Washington?

[Husayn] I really can't ...

[Same reporter, interrupting] Did you ask Secretary Christopher for anything specific either on the political or the economic plain or to use his diplomacy with the Israelis to achieve some other things that you have wanted?

[Husayn] I think we had a very frank discussion between friends, between partners. So there was not anything specific that we might have asked for beyond, I believe, having an identity of views of the need to continue positive movement toward peace as rapidly as we can, and at the same time, hopefully, in the future and in the very near future to begin to address the needs of the region. As far as I am concerned, in particular the West Bank and Gaza, the occupied territories, people, but beyond that, how we should look seriously more than ever before at the important and needed changes in the quality of lives, the quality of life of people in this entire region and beyond. I hope that these problems will be addressed and I hope that peace will then not become just the ratification of agreements but something that will change everything here to what it should be. And I hope that we will leave this as a legacy to future generations. Thank you.

Papers on King Husayn's Talks With Christopher JN0712104593

[Editorial report] The four Jordanian Arabic dailies on 7 December 1993 editorialize on U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's talks in Amman and the joint news conference he held with Jordan's King Husayn in Amman on 6 December.

In its editorial, headlined "King Husayn's Successful Meetings with 'Arafat and Christopher," SAWT AL-SHA'B says that the answers that King Husayn and Christopher gave during their joint news conference demonstrate that the U.S.-Jordanian talks were "candid, cordial, and successful." The paper adds that the U.S. secretary affirmed the "soundness" of the Jordanian position calling for a comprehensive Middle East peace

on all fronts. The paper adds that the U.S. official showed "understanding for Jordan's position and its legitimate present and future political and economic aspirations." Touching on the talks between King Husayn and Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat in Amman, the paper says the talks were "successful by all yardsticks." It adds that 'Arafat stressed that the Jordanian-Palestinian committees will be reactivated to bolster "coordination and cooperation" between Jordan and the PLO. Concluding its editorial, SAWT AL-SHA'B says: "We believe that the U.S. Administration should play an important role in convincing Israel to give up its intransigence and futile maneuvers, which will never serve the peace process."

AL-DUSTUR's editorial, headlined "We are Committed to Peace and its Principles," says that the Husayn-Christopher news conference reflects the importance of "continuing the exchange of views on various regional and international issues, especially the peace process" between the two sides. The paper adds that it is important to continue the "Jordanian-U.S. dialogue" because this dialogue is between two "basic" parties to the peace process.

The paper notes that it was natural for Jordan to review with the U.S. official "all the obstacles that still face peace in the Middle East, including the continued Israeli intransigence on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks of negotiations."

AL-DUSTUR notes that the peace Jordan is looking for is not merely for the sake of signing agreements or treaties, but to see peace become one of the "aspired positive changes in the lives of the peoples of the region and a factor that can change everything in the Middle East."

In conclusion, AL-DUSTUR says: "While supporting every international effort to bolster the available historic peace opportunity, Jordan would like the United States to share with it its conviction that any delay in the implementation of what has been agreed so far will make the peace process lose some of its credibility, strengthen its opponents, and undermine the fragile ground on which it stands."

Under the headline "The U.S. Role and the Time Factor," AL-RA'Y discusses the Husayn-Christopher talks and joint news conference. After noting the U.S. secretary of state's tribute to King Husayn as a "leader of the peace process in the region," the paper underscores King Husayn's eagerness for a "just, comprehensive, and durable peace" in the Middle East.

AL-RA'Y notes that when Christopher says that "reaching good agreements is more important than reaching immediate agreements," this shows that unlike the Arabs, "the U.S. sponsor is not giving the time factor the due attention and importance."

The paper also notes that economic issues figured prominently during the U.S. official's talks in Jordan, and that King Husayn stressed the need for rapid solutions to these issues.

The paper adds: "However, Mr. Christopher's statements were confined to recalling old promises which have not so far materialized. He said that the U.S. Government is discussing or has discussed these issues, but nothing has yet been decided in this regard. This does not conform with what the guest secretary has described as a new spirit in the Jordanian-U.S. relations.

"We hope Mr. Christopher will convey to the U.S. leadership the importance that the leaders in this region attach to the time factor with respect to the question of resolving the difficulties that face the peace process and the economic issues in the region.

"Nobody doubts that the U.S. sponsor is qualified to resolve these difficulties and issues, but there are doubts about this sponsor's desire to do so."

In its editorial, the mainly economic daily AL-ASWAQ reiterates King Husayn's remarks during the news conference about the need for a durable peace that recognizes the Palestinian people's rights and that is based on "respect for borders, neighbors, and abandoning the policy of expansion and aggression that Israel has been exercising since its establishment." The paper urges the U.S. Administration to "intensify its efforts to convince the Tel Aviv government to stop its procrastination and intransigence, and introduce a substantial change into its policy that is based on war and aggression." Otherwise the paper concludes, peace will remain "mere ink on paper even if agreements are signed."

'Arafat Inspects Forces at Royal Guard Center

JN0612193893 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, paid a visit to the Royal Guard Training Center this morning. During his visit, 'Arafat inspected a group of Palestinian forces being trained at the center and watched some of their training exercises. He also listened to a briefing by the commander of the Husayn Bin-'Ali Brigade on the military exercises the group is receiving.

President 'Arafat was impressed with the level of training the Palestinian forces are receiving at the center. He was also impressed with what these forces have reached in terms of preparedness and accuracy in performing the tasks assigned to them.

Jordan Said To Support PLO on Withdrawal Date

JN0612095593 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 6 Dec 93 pp 1, 27

[By Hamdan al-Hajj]

[Text] Marwan Dudin, deputy head of the Jordanian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, has expressed hope that the Israeli occupation authorities will abide by the signed agreements, especially the Declaration of Principles signed by the PLO and Israel on 13 September.

In an exclusive statement to AL-DUSTUR, Dudin said that an announcement by Israel on the beginning of its actual withdrawal from the entire Gaza Strip and Jericho, as the two negotiating parties had agreed, would certainly ease tension and remove the skepticism that prevailed the previous stage, and which led to lack of clarity over the withdrawal and the date of withdrawal.

Dudin reiterated Jordan's positive position in support of the Palestinian call for full Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho, and that the Jericho area is not only the city and two surrounding camps, but is the area known as Jericho in accordance with the administrative division.

He said the Jordanian Government had officially supported the Palestinian demand that the crossing points on the two bridges on the Jordan River be controlled by the Palestinian administration, and that administrative organs in the rest of the West Bank outside Jericho be handed over as scheduled by the Declaration of Principles.

Dudin emphasized that talks to reach an agreement on relations between the kingdom and the PLO, in its capacity as the national authority during the transitional stage, is an urgent Jordanian-Palestinian demand, and delaying this objective harms the interests of the two parties. He said that certain PLO circumstances may have caused this delay, and that Jordan has been ready for immediate discussions to reach understanding since 13 September.

Dudin said he hoped these circumstances had changed and that the PLO was ready to begin serious talks with the Jordanian Government to realize this objective, since it is better that the two sides engage in serious discussions without further delay.

Dudin said that throughout the period of occupation, Jordan's relations with the occupied territories were influenced by the occupation, yet the movement of people, economy, and mutual interests continued. After the setting up of the national authority and the transitional government that will follow, an understanding should be reached on the nature of relations between the closest Arab peoples in the social, political, economic, and other fields and in various aspects of life.

Representative on UN Role in Peace Process

JN0412113293 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 3 Dec 93 p 28

[Text] New York—PETRA—'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, Jordan's permanent representative at the United Nations, has warned about falling under the illusion that the UN role stopped with the signing of the agreement of principles between Israel and the PLO. He stressed that the UN role must continue until the parties to the conflict implement Security Council Resolution 242 and until the Palestinian people exercise their national inalienable rights, including their right to self-determination and to establishing their independent state on their national soil with Jerusalem as its capital.

Addressing the UN General Assembly during a discussion of the situation in the Middle East the day before yesterday, Abu-'Awdah highlighted the important role the United States should play in the ongoing Middle East peace process. He said that the United Nations should remain the base and conscience of the international legitimacy by reiterating Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the other resolutions related to the Middle East and Palestine.

Abu-'Awdah added that the United Nations must strengthen the Arab and Israeli camps of peace by supporting the involved parties in all economic, social, cultural, development, and humanitarian fields through the specialized UN organizations.

Jordan's permanent UN representative noted that some parties involved in the peace process, including Jordan, are burdened with foreign debts that are obstructing their development and efforts to achieve an economic and psychological atmosphere that would activate their march in the peace process.

Unity Party Statement Rejects Peace Process

JN0512190493 Amman NIDA' AL-WATAN in Arabic 2 Dec 93 p 17

["Political statement" issued by the Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party—date not given]

[Text] Our people's masses: On 29 November, the masses of our people and our nation marked the anniversary of the Palestine partitioning resolution, which gave the hostile Zionist entity a legitimate political presence on a large part of Palestine's land. The UN General Assembly has made this anniversary an international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people and their drive to regain their legitimate national rights, thanks to the Palestinian people's struggle and sacrifices.

The Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party [JDPUP] marks the anniversary to renew our pledge, further our determination, and assess the march nearly 45 years after Palestine was usurped. This is because the Palestine question is a Jordanian, as well as a Palestinian, concern and because it is the Arabs' central cause and the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Our people's masses: We do not exaggerate if we say that the Palestinian people's national and legitimate rights are facing the most critical and serious turning point. The Palestine question and the Palestinian people's rights are being liquidated these days after the dominating leadership in the PLO has signed an agreement on the principles of self-rule with Israel. The agreement is very dangerous because it is aimed at entrenching the Zionist occupation, ending the brave intifadah, disrupting the unity of the people and the land, and denying the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights, foremost of which is their right to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of their independent state. In addition, it has paved the way for normalizing

Arab-Zionist relations and will enable the enemy to impose its economic and political hegemony over the potentials of the people and the nation.

Our people's masses: The Jordanian Government's agenda accord with Israel on 14 September 1993 behind our people's back and without consulting them is no less dangerous than that agreement.

We are fully aware that the early dissolution of the previous parliament, the formation of 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali's government, and the amendment of the election law are aimed at peddling the agenda accord and establishing a pro-government parliament, which will provide the required cover for the agreements that were signed and will be signed with the Zionist enemy.

Our people's masses: On this occasion, we pledge to continue our struggle to achieve the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights, foremost of which is their right to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of their independent state with holy Jerusalem as its capital. We reiterate our pledge to continue to oppose the so-called Palestinian-Israeli agreement and the agenda accord and to resist all forms of normalization with the Zionist enemy.

We also stress our support for the Palestinian national and democratic forces that reject the agreement, as well as their efforts to hold popular conferences to form a broad national front, protect the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights from the danger of liquidation, and rebuild the PLO on a democratic basis.

We fully support the intifadah for the sake of freedom and independence.

[signed] The Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party

U.S. Urged To Put 'Sufficient Pressure' on Israel

JN0612123893 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 6 Dec 93 pp 1, 27

[Editorial: "Christopher's Tour and the Colorless Expectations"]

[Text] Against a backdrop of colorless expectations, and in light of a U.S. attempt to trim down optimism regarding Warren Christopher's current mission, the U.S. secretary of state continues his new Middle East tour from capital to capital in a bid to advance the peace efforts and revive the Washington negotiations, which have been stalled for several months.

It is too early to judge this tour before we know its results, but we know in advance that unless the United States plays its role as a mediator and a full partner in the peace process, this tour is not expected to realize any worthwhile positive results.

The fact that is clear to all is that the role of sponsor and full partner necessitates that the United States applies sufficient pressure on Israel to force it to seriously and

practically abide by the requisites of just and comprehensive peace on all fronts and tracks of talks with the Arab parties.

Until we see such pressure, and until we feel an Israeli seriousness in dealing with the requisites of the aspired peace in the region, we will continue to hold Washington responsible for the failure to seize an available and unique opportunity to realize just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Washington, before anyone else, knows that unless real and substantial progress is made on all tracks of negotiations in a paralleled and realistic manner, what seemed to be progress on the Palestinian track will remain abstract progress that may suffer a relapse at any moment. Furthermore, this progress will be viewed as a violation of a principle on which all parties agreed, namely, comprehensive peace.

We will be following Warren Christopher's visits to the region's capitals during the next few days to see whether the United States has really overcome the state of hesitation and wait and see while it watches Israel abort the historic peace opportunity. We also want to see whether President Clinton's Administration has really met its declared commitments as a sponsor of the peace process and full partner in this process that is now at a very dangerous juncture.

Parliamentarian Meets U.S. Disarmament Delegation

JN0412160193 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1520 GMT 4 Dec 93

[Text] Amman, 4 Dec (PETRA)—'Abd-al-Hadi al-Majali, chairman of the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee, today met with a U.S. delegation concerned with disarmament and conflict resolution.

During the meeting, al-Majali stressed Jordan's support for the ongoing regional peace process and its eagerness to back the Palestinian institutions in running the Palestinian self-rule, which is one of the most important Palestinian issues, especially since everyone is awaiting the outcome of the current Palestinian-Israeli peace negotiations.

Al-Majali pointed to the difficulties facing the peace process, represented by the obstruction of the Taba negotiations and the stalemate in the Palestinian-Israeli talks in Cairo, in addition to developments in Gaza and other occupied territories and their negative repercussions, particularly after the acts of violence carried out by the settlers there.

For its part, the U.S. delegation stressed the importance of continuing and bringing success to the peace process, and the need for academic cooperation and the exchange of visits by experts in order to enhance bilateral relations of cooperation.

U.S. Defense Team's Tour Viewed

JN0212070293 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 1 Dec 93 p 3

[Text] Amman—A high-level U.S. Defence Department delegation began a visit to Jordan as part of Middle East mission described by Washington as aimed at reaffirming long-standing U.S. security commitments to the region and exploring possibilities of a collective arrangement for security.

The delegation, led by Frank Wisner, under secretary of defence, was expected to be received by His Majesty King Husayn, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali and other senior government leaders.

On Tuesday [30 November], the team was received by the chairman of the joint Chiefs of Staff, General 'Abd al-Hafiz Mar'i al-Ka'abinah, the Jordan News Agency, PETRA, said.

The agency said Gen. al-Ka'abinah and the visitors exchanged views on "the situation in the region" and discussed "means of cooperation and coordination." It did not give details.

Briefing reporters on the delegation's 13-day trip to the Middle East, a senior Pentagon official said last week that the region's countries needed "to hear directly from the new administration about the importance the U.S. attaches to them."

Officials said the objective of the visit was to explore ways and means to translate the reality of the end of the cold war and progress in the Middle East peace process into collective arrangements to counter potential security threats to the region's countries as well as U.S. interests.

One of the key Jordanian ideas in this context is Crown Prince Hasan's proposal for a conference on Middle East security along the lines of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

The proposal, which envisages a nuclear-free Middle East zone, implies the exposure of the arsenals of the countries of the region, a prospect that Israel, believed to possess nuclear weapons among its vast military machine, has repeatedly dismissed.

In general terms, the mission's goal, as described by the Pentagon official, is to set the stage for a "new era of cooperation with a region that we have long determined is vital to U.S. national interests."

The discussions the delegation will have with the leaders of Jordan, Egypt, Israel, Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states will focus on the planned restructuring of U.S. defence forces announced by Defence Secretary Les Aspin in mid-September.

European military experts noted that with the collapse of the Soviet Union and the defence treaties that the U.S. has

already signed with Kuwait and other Gulf states, Washington could now afford to reduce its physical military presence in the Middle East. That is one of the main regional impacts of the restructuring announced by Mr. Aspin.

The delegation will review "strategic requirements as well as current and future security threats" in the Middle East.

According to the Pentagon official, the delegation was to urge Middle Eastern leaders to "establish priorities in ways that make sense, not only for their own defence but in terms of mutual cooperation in the region."

Military training joint exercises, inter-operability of equipment and doctrines and possibly the prepositioning of troops and material in the region could be the means to achieve this end, the official said.

Depending on the results of the delegation's mission, the official said, "a new era of cooperation" could emerge.

The mission is not expected to produce any new treaties, mutual defence pacts, or announcements about military assistance.

The delegation includes Ted E. Warner, assistant secretary of defence for strategy, requirements and resources, Frances D. Cook, deputy assistant secretary of state for regional security affairs and security assistance, Molly Williamson, deputy assistant secretary of defence for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, and Rear Admiral John Michael Leucke, director, plans and policies, U.S. Central Command.

Mr. Wisner is a former ambassador who served in Egypt and the Philippines.

Ms. Williamson was the U.S. consul general in Arab East Jerusalem until last year.

Parliament Opens Debate of Confidence Vote

Deputies Address House

JN0512135593 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1200 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Text] The Lower House of Parliament has opened debate of a vote of confidence in the government of Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali. Deputies began taking the floor at 10 am this morning as the session got under way under Speaker Tahir al-Masri and in the presence of Premier al-Majali and Cabinet members.

Seventy-one deputies have asked to address the House on the government's foreign and domestic program. Deputy 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti called on the government to pursue negotiations with Israel to arrive at a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. He said: Jordan would not cede any Arab right and called for intensive efforts to reconcile the Arabs and overcome the strains of the Gulf war. He said: Arab-Arab peace should precede

Arab-Israeli peace. Mr. al-Kabariti urged the government to reassess the role of state institutions and development funds.

Deputy 'Ali Abu-al-Raghib underlined Jordan's rejection of unilateral solutions and his majesty the king's commitment to a comprehensive settlement. Deputy Samir Qa'war emphasized national unity and saluted the efforts the Kingdom's Hashemite leadership to unify Arab ranks, while 'Ajlun Deputy Farah al-Rabadi called for a national conference to discuss the economic situation of the Kingdom.

Dr. al-Majali had asked for the confidence of the Lower House of Parliament on November the 30th, after adopting the Speech from the Throne as the government's policy statement.

Lower House Adjourns Debate

JN0512174293 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1700 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Text] The lower house of Parliament has adjourned its debate on the vote of confidence in Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali's government until tomorrow, after 19 deputies addressed the House. Several deputies demanded that the government live up to its commitment to a comprehensive peace settlement involving all Arab countries to the peace talks. The deputies called for a national unity and praised the government role in handling the recent elections and asserted on the need of constructive criticism for the improvement of the citizens' living conditions. The deputies also touched on internal issues such as prices hikes, improvement of services in several sectors, and asked the government to exert its efforts to cut down unemployment.

The deputies also called on the government to stop the employment of foreign labor. The vote of confidence is expected to come on Wednesday [8 December] after 71 deputies are expected to take the floor. The Constitution requires a vote of confidence for the government, which is the final step in officially installing the government.

Lower House Resumes Debate 6 Dec

JN0612133893 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1200 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] The Lower House of Parliament has continued debate on a vote of confidence in Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali's government.

Eleven deputies have spoken up to this hour on the second day of the debate. They tackled various aspects of services provided by the government, and urged solutions for the problems of poverty and unemployment.

They also demanded improving the educational, industrial, and agricultural sectors. Some deputies called for reshuffle in the present cabinet.

However, all those who spoke today said they will vote for a confidence in the government.

Debate is to continue this afternoon, and is expected to resume tomorrow.

Government Comes Under Fire in Debate

JN0712094493 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 7
Dec 93 pp 1, 10

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Ayman al-Safadi]

[Text] Amman—Opposition deputies Monday [6 December] pelleted the government with criticism while those who support it defended its policy and praised its achievements on the second day of debate on a vote of confidence in the Cabinet of Prime Minister 'Abd al-Salam al-Majali.

Criticism of the government centred on what many deputies called the undemocratic practices of the Cabinet, its disrespect for the legislature, discrimination among citizens and participation in the peace process.

While some deputies praised the abilities and records of Dr. al-Majali and his ministerial team, others asserted that the prime minister and his Cabinet members were incapable of rising up to the challenges facing the country.

The issues that dominated the first day of the confidence session on Sunday also occupied the major parts of the speeches of the 22 deputies who took the floor during the debate that lasted into the early hours of the evening.

Though the government came under more fire from deputies who castigated its dissolution of Parliament and unilateral changes of the Election Law, there were no indications that it will not be able to win a vote of confidence.

Most observers and deputies said the Cabinet will win the confidence of the deputies, but its mandate will be very limited as not more than 45 deputies are expected to vote in its favour.

Deputies will prove disloyal to their electorate if "they give a vote of confidence to this government which has demonstrated that its (style) of government has nothing to do with democracy." Deputy Tujan Faysal (Amman Third District) said in a speech full of criticism of the government and its record.

While many lawmakers spoke in support of the cabinet's decentralisation programme, Ms. Faysal, Jordan's first female deputy, attacked the programme as a flawed practice that would consolidate the power of the Ministry of interior and its employees, the administrative rulers.

Ms. Faysal also accused the government of irregularities during the Nov. 8 polls, claiming the elections would not have been honest had it not been for the "care" of His Majesty King Husayn.

Islamic Action Front (IAF) deputies joined Ms. Faysal in attacking the decentralisation programme of the Cabinet

saying it would give more power to administrative rulers at the expense of elected councils in the governorates and cities of the Kingdom.

Three IAF deputies who spoke Monday attacked the government's participation in the peace negotiations and demanded that the country withdraw from them.

They said the peace talks would constitute a recognition of the "Jewish" occupation of Arab land and people and condemned the Jordan-Israel agenda for peace negotiations as a prelude to the normalisation of relations with Israel.

Such a development, they said, would lead to "Jewish" cultural, economic and political dominance of the Muslim Nation. They said the official media were promoting the peace process and warned against "developing" school curricula in a way that would pave the way for normalisation of relations with Israel.

"The policy statement mentioned the Jews as the sons of Abraham and not as the enemies," IAF Deputy Bassam al-Umush (al-Zarqa) said, expressing rejection of the Gaza-Jericho accord and the Jordan-Israel agenda and warning against Israeli plans to build "a substitute homeland" in Jordan for the Palestinians.

Other lawmakers, however, endorsed the participation in the peace process provided they lead to a just and comprehensive settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

IAF deputies were among other lawmakers who emphasised the need for strengthening national unity and ensuring equal rights for all citizens. They said, however, that the government's practices had worked to weaken rather than strengthen unity among citizens.

IAF deputies said the government has practised favouritism and nepotism in the employment of civil servants, reserving certain positions, especially in the foreign service, to select segments of society.

The IAF deputies said they were also withholding confidence from the government because it had not indicated its willingness to move towards the implementation of Islam in Jordan.

They called on the government to improve its ties with the Muslim and Arab worlds because the "division" of the nation has weakened the Arabs and Muslims before their enemies.

Similar demands were made by other deputies who said Jordan has always worked to improve ties among Arabs.

Any improvement of relations with Arab Gulf states, should not be accompanied with any "concessions that harm the interests of the country, (and better ties) with Saudi Arabia should not come at the expense of keeping the sanctions against Iraq," said Deputy Ratib al-Sa'ud (al-Tafilah).

Common among the demands of the deputies were calls for fairness in ensuring university admission for all Jordanians, introduction of new taxes, keeping subsidies for basic goods and more effective policies in dealing with the problems of poverty and unemployment.

The government also received criticism for increasing by 50 per cent the salaries of Cabinet members at a time when, deputies said, such raises should have gone to civil servants and members of the Armed Forces.

The need to support the Armed Forces was emphasised by deputies who opposed the government and those who indicated they would support it.

"I praise the government's policy statement that calls for strengthening democracy," 'Ajlun Deputy Ahmad al-Qudah said.

The policy statement of the government and the ability of its members were praised by deputies who said the statement was comprehensive and the ministerial team able.

"The speech from the Throne is a policy statement that any government will be honoured to make its programme...the prime minister is a man of principles," said deputy Nadir al-Zuhayrat (al-Kurah), who spoke after Ms. Faysal, who said the Cabinet hid behind the popularity of the King when it adopted the speech as its policy statement.

Mr. al-Zuhayrat and other deputies demanded that the government pay more attention to the agricultural sector and provide more services to their constituencies.

More than 30 deputies are expected to take the floor before the House ends its debate of a vote of confidence on the government, which will have to fight hard before it wins the expected narrow margin of support from the House.

The House will resume its session Tuesday. Vote is not expected before Wednesday after the government responds to the demands of deputies, many of whom said their vote will depend on the government's response to the issues they raised.

Paper on Deputy Discussion of Vote

JN0712215693 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 6 Dec pp 1, 10

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Ayman al-Safadi]

[Text] Amman—The Lower House of Parliament Sunday [5 December] began debating a vote of confidence in the government of Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali amidst indications that the Cabinet will have to fight hard before it could win what is expected to be a narrow mandate.

Deputies and observers said the government will not be able to win more than 45 to 47 votes of confidence when the 80 lawmakers cast their votes at the end of the session, which is expected to last until Wednesday.

The government came under fire from deputies who opposed its participation in the peace process and accused the government of showing disrespect for the legislature, manipulating the Nov. 8 elections to its favour and violating the spirit of the democratisation process.

But Dr. al-Majali and his Cabinet won praise from some of the 19 deputies who took the floor Sunday for what they called the honesty and fairness of the elections, the Cabinet's administrative reform programme and the comprehensiveness of its policy statement.

Even deputies who indicated that they would vote in favour of the government showered it with demands for better services and more investment in their constituencies as well as economic and administrative reforms.

Common among the demands of deputies who spoke Sunday were calls for pursuing better Arab relations, support for the Palestinian people and a comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict and an end to the 40-month-old sanctions against Iraq.

Deputies also demanded that the government introduce no new taxes, deal effectively with poverty and unemployment, raise salaries and pay more attention to the agricultural and industrial sectors.

Loyalty to His Majesty King Husayn was also pledged by deputies who attacked the government as well as those who indicated they would support it. Calls for strengthening national unity and guaranteeing equal rights for all citizens were also made during the session.

Ma'an Deputy 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti set the tone of the session when he severely criticised Dr. al-Majali for failing to respond to what he described as the legislature's overtures to start a cooperative relationship with the executive authority before he reshuffled the government Wednesday.

Mr. al-Kabariti said that during a meeting the Progressive Democratic Coalition (PDC) held with Dr. al-Majali before the government change was introduced, deputies showed their inclination to work with the government but Dr. al-Majali "wanted separation."

This reflects "a way of thinking that believes in the separation among the authorities to the extent of no cooperation," said Mr. al-Kabariti, a former Cabinet minister.

The PDC "met with (Dr. al-Majali but the meeting provided no answers)... Dr. al-Majali manoeuvred us but did not negotiate with us," said Mr. al-Kabariti, who is expected to abstain from voting.

Tafileh Deputy Mohammad Daoudiedh, whose speech included the strongest criticism of Dr. al-Majali, said the prime minister deliberately and unjustifying ignored the House when he did not negotiate the government reshuffle with the deputies.

"There is no doubt that Dr. al-Majali contributed to harming the image of the Chamber of Deputies," said Mr. al-Dawudiyah, who also accused the government of nepotism, interfering in the elections and harming national unity by introducing the one-person, one-vote formula into the electoral process.

Mr. al-Dawudiyah said that members of the al-'Ahd Party, led by Deputy 'Abd-al-Hadi al-Majali, were disproportionately represented in the government which he called the government of al-'Ahd.

The government is a centre of power for al-'Ahd, he said. It is a government of bureaucrats that does not recognise the authority of the House, he added.

"Democracy is in danger," said Mr. al-Dawudiyah, who is expected to withhold confidence from the government.

"The truth shows that many of the members of this Cabinet belong to one party, and the practices of this government and some of the ministers in it were aimed to serve this party," independent Islamist Deputy 'Abd-al-Razzaq Tubayshat (Irbid) said.

Mr. Tubayshat said the government greatly harmed national unity by taking a number of measures that spread fear among the public, especially amending the election law.

He said the government proved incapable of holding a national debate on the appropriateness of changing the Election Law and for amending it after dissolving the 11th Parliament.

"This House later came to face a government that takes it very lightly," said Dr. Tubayshat, who is also expected to withhold confidence from the government.

Dr. Tubayshat said the government violated the norms by not resigning after conducting the elections, saying the prime minister refused to acknowledge that it was a transitional government and insisted that the Cabinet is "an eternal one."

Declaring that his position will be "unsupportive of the government," Deputy 'Ali Abu-al-Raghib (Amman, Third District) said Dr. al-Majali's ministerial team will not be able to effectively deal with the economic and social challenges facing the country.

"The Cabinet lacks the team spirit; its objectives are not clear and (there was no) care to choose ministers who are capable of shouldering the responsibilities and hammering out suitable solutions to our many problems and issues," said Mr. Abu-al-Raghib.

Islamic Action Front (IAF) bloc member Badr al-Riyati gave an insight into the kind of criticism other IAF deputies will level against the government with a speech that attacked every aspect of the government's work.

Mr. al-Riyati (Ma'an) attacked the government for allegedly intending in the elections, dissolving the 11th Parliament, and changing the Election Law in a way that harmed national unity.

The government practices "give us reason to question the (seriousness) of the democratic, shoura process," he said.

While other deputies endorsed the peace negotiations with Israel on the condition that they produce a just and comprehensive settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict, Mr. al-Riyati, whose party rejects the peace process on ideological grounds, said the negotiations can only "lead to legitimising the (Israeli) occupation."

Mr. al-Riyati's rejection of the peace negotiations with Israel was echoed by Deputy Hammam Sa'id (Amman, Fifth District), who said the peace talks with Israel conflict with the teachings of Islam.

Dr. Sa'id said that nobody has the right to give away any parts of Palestine because it belongs to the whole Muslim nation.

Dr. Sa'id, described as a hawkish member of the IAF, rejected the Kingdom's 1989 decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the West Bank because, he said, the Constitution prohibits relinquishing sovereignty over any part of the Jordanian territory.

"The government relinquished this sovereignty when it signed the agenda (for peace talks) with Israel on Sept. 14," said Mr. Sa'id, who withheld confidence from the government because, among other things, "it assassinated the free and honest will of the nation with its will which is not free and not honest."

Words of praise for the government were also heard during the session from deputies who hailed the fairness of the election and voiced acceptance of its domestic and foreign policy.

"The latest parliamentary elections were another achievement of the country which will win it more respect," said Deputy Miflih al-Lawzi (Amman, Fifth District).

Mr. al-Lawzi said the government policy statement reflects orientations that aim at consolidating the democratic process and ensuring the stability of the country, adding that he supported the government's decentralisation programme.

"Our confidence that this government will abide by the basic principles of the nation and the higher values that prevail in our country make us give it confidence with no reluctance," said Mr. al-Lawzi.

"When we listened to and studied the Speech from the Throne which the government considered as its policy statement, we found that it constitutes a truthful and good beginning to a responsible political orientation," said Deputy Fawzi al-Zu'bi (al-Ramtha).

Congratulating the government on the confidence of the King, Deputy Nawwaf al-Qadi (northern Bedouins) praised the abilities of members of the Cabinet and said it deserves a vote of confidence.

Leader of the 18-member National Action Front (NAF) 'Abd-al-Hadi al-Majali lauded the policy statement of the government, describing it as comprehensive and descriptive of the achievements of the government.

Mr. al-Majali praised the achievements of the government in holding the elections on time, beginning the decentralisation programme, reducing the foreign debt, and "the serious pursuit for achieving a comprehensive and just peace that would safeguard the interests of Jordan, complements the Arab position and supports the Palestinian people and its institutions in their choices that will gain them their right to self determination."

The Lower House will resume its debate Monday, with 62 more deputies expected to take the floor before the government responds to the speeches of the deputies and votes are cast.

Envoys Deliver Messages to Yemeni Leaders

JN0412190893 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 Dec 93

[Text] His Excellency al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, and Dr. Khalid al-Karaki, his majesty the king's adviser, have returned to Amman following a visit to Yemen.

His Excellency al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir conveyed two messages from His Majesty King Husayn to His Excellency Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Yemeni Presidential Council, and 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Yemeni Presidential Council, when they received him in Sanaa and Aden today.

The two messages dealt with the fraternal relations between the two sisterly countries, current Arab issues, and His Majesty King Husayn's concern for Yemen's unity and democracy and the need to circumvent any dispute that may harm Yemen's unity and democracy.

Continuing Sanctions Against Iraq Criticized

JN2911085993 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 29 Nov 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Enough is Enough"]

[Text] It seems that no matter what Iraq agrees to do to meet its obligations under U.N. Security Council resolutions that called for the scrapping of its mass-destruction weapons and a continued supervision, monitoring and verification of its nuclear, chemical, biological and ballistic weapons, the international body is still intent in prolonging the suffering of the Iraqi people. Accordingly, when Baghdad officially agreed Friday [26 November] to long-term monitoring of its commitments under Security Council Resolution 715, the immediate response of the council members was that that was not enough and that Iraq must still pass through a probation period of at least six months.

To begin with, neither the letter nor the spirit of the relevant U.N. resolutions insists on putting the Iraqi authorities under surveillance after they fully agree to comply with the international demands. This prolongation of the Iraqi people's agony suggests, therefore, that the major players in the Security Council have other aims and objectives than that country's compliance with the council's resolution.

It has been already three years since sanctions were imposed on Baghdad in the aftermath of the Gulf war. The suffering of the Iraqi people has reached inhuman proportions, judging by confirmed reports that Iraqis are selling their body organs in order to make ends meet. Medical sources in Iraq and Jordan have repeatedly confirmed that Iraqis are lately selling their kidneys to raise cash to support their families. We wonder, what else the Iraqi people should sell before the international body lifts the sanctions enforced on them. The specialised U.N. agencies speak of a dramatic rise in infant mortality rate in that country due to these sanctions and embargoes. Yet, the organisation charged with the mandate of maintaining international and regional peace and security remains indifferent to such deprivations and suffering.

The Security Council has recently assumed the role of promoting and protecting human rights under the umbrella of the new world order. We therefore wonder what the council is doing in this regard. Iraq has already paid dearly for the blunder it had committed in 1990 when it invaded and occupied Kuwait. It is high time that Iraq's cooperation with the international community be reciprocated in kind.

Buwayz Opposes UN Resolution on Peace Process

NC0612135693 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] A draft resolution on the Middle East peace process prepared by the United States, Russia, and Norway will be put to a vote at the United Nations' General Assembly [UNGA] today. The draft resolution ignores Resolution 425 and refers to Resolutions 338 and 242 as the two primary resolutions on the peace process.

Lebanon has instructed its permanent UN delegate Ambassador Khalil Makkawi to oppose the draft resolution and call on the delegates of the Arab and friendly states to oppose it too, considering that it ignores Resolution 425.

Foreign Minister Buwayz this afternoon said Lebanon rejects the draft resolution proposed at the UNGA to separate UN Resolution 425 from Resolutions 242 and 338. He said instructions to that effect were given to Ambassador Makkawi. Buwayz denied that Lebanon knew about the seven Israeli soldiers missing in Lebanon. Minister Buwayz added:

[Begin Buwayz recording] What is being proposed is a statement to be issued by the UN in support of the peace process. The gist of the draft proposal refers to the premises on which the Madrid peace conference was based. The Madrid conference was primarily based on UN Resolutions 242 and 338. Later, after talks with the United States and then the Soviet cosponsors, UN Resolution 425 was added following the exchange of letters and became an indivisible part of the peace process as far as Lebanon is concerned. Based on this premise, Lebanon joined the peace process on the basis of Resolution 425, with respect to its occupied territories, and on the basis of Resolutions 242 and 338 on the Arab-Israeli conflict as a whole. The current deliberations at the United Nations seek to endorse the premises of the Madrid conference, leaving Resolution 425 to be discussed in separate statements or by other means. We reject any principle or any resolution issued by the United Nations that does not include Resolution 425. We believe there is neither a technical nor formal justification for the failure to mention this resolution, even if the premises of the Madrid conference did not mention it at first. Clear instructions have been given to our permanent UN delegate to oppose any UN resolution that does not include Resolution 425 and to explain things in writing to the United Nations. [end recording]

Denies Knowledge of Israeli POW's

NC0612154593 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has stressed that Lebanon has no information that there are Israeli soldiers [held as prisoners] in its territories, including Israeli pilot Ron Arad. He said that the government has

been unable to get any information on some recent events. In a statement he made today, Minister Buwayz said:

[Begin recording] [Passage omitted] [Unidentified correspondent] In your view, what is the objective behind the proposed UN statement?

[Buwayz] I cannot say that there is a political objective. It could be some sort of a formal arrangement. But, in any case, whether it is a formal procedure or not, our stance is clear and we have conveyed it to all those concerned.

[Correspondent] Minister, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has said that employees from the U.S. Congress will come to the al-Biq'a Valley to meet with a Hizballah team about the seven Israeli soldiers. Does Lebanon welcome this? Does it know about it?

[Buwayz] Of course, the state and its official establishments were absent during the war years when these events took place in Lebanon. To this day, the state does not know much about the many events that took place during this war. We as a state do not have any information that there are Israeli prisoners in Lebanon or with official Lebanese organs.

[Correspondent] Not even the Israeli pilot?

[Buwayz] Including the Israeli pilot.

[Correspondent] Minister, does the UN statement [words indistinct] mean that the United Nations is evading Resolution 425?

[Buwayz] I have already said that the explanation given for this issue is based on formal considerations, namely that the Madrid conference premises that were adopted did not include this issue in the first place. We do not have any information that this issue does conceal political intentions.

[Correspondent] Is Secretary Christopher proposing anything new in his current Middle East tour?

[Buwayz] We have not yet been briefed on the preliminary outcome of Secretary Christopher's visit. In any case, it seems that the visit so far has not dealt with the fundamental and basic issues. It seems that there is a kind of preparation of the atmosphere rather than an in-depth discussion. [end recording]

Al-Hariri on Israeli 'Occupation,' Syrian Army

NC0712120893 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has reiterated Lebanon's insistence on the immediate, unconditional implementation of Resolution 425.

In an interview with the German newspaper DER SPIEGEL, he said the Israeli occupation of the south creates a pretext for the presence of military forces opposed to

Lebanon. He added: When Israel pulls out, we will send the regular Army to the area to maintain peace. The presence of the Syrian Army helps us provide internal security. I hope part of the Syrian Army will stay here because we need it.

He affirmed that Lebanon will not sign any separate treaty with Israel and said Lebanon and Syria are in agreement not to sign any separate treaty because such a treaty will cause a destructive state of division for both of them.

'Awn Sees 'Political Purge' by Government

PM0312162893 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 2 Dec 93 p 2

[Unattributed report: "'Awn: It Is a Frustrated Government Carrying Out Political Purge Operation"]

[Text] London, AL-HAYAH—Former Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has said that the Lebanese Government "is carrying out a political purge operation, not an administrative purge operation." He stressed that reforms "are necessary, and so is the referral of transgressors and the corrupt to competent courts, as a warning to others. But that should not be done through a mortgaged tool of which Lebanon is aspiring to cleanse itself in order to build its future."

'Awn demanded that "all files be opened, including the al-Zahrani refinery file and the file concerning the oil money shared by those concerned and the militias, which did not go to the treasury. This file affects some of those who are trying today to give people the impression that they want to carry out a purge."

He said that the government "continues to try to distract people, whether through the purge and reforms propaganda or through continued oneupmanship over the issue of dealing with Israel. In fact it is a frustrated government in every way. It tried in the recent past to pin the frustration on citizens and give public opinion the impression that the current structure has produced frustrated citizens, when the opposite is true. Citizens are standing fast and struggling by all means to recover their rights, and the government is frustrated in every respect, beginning with its failure to reactivate the issue of political subservience to Syria and the control of

decisionmaking by Damascus through to the current negotiations in Washington and elsewhere; the Lebanese negotiator's nonreliance on a national paper, receiving orders from the fraternal authorities; and failure to fill the holes on the roads, improve living conditions, and stop monopolization, the mafia, and the monster of starvation and high prices. Let alone Lebanon's continuing to be a main source of the drugs which pass from Beirut to Arab and foreign states under the protection, and with the participation, of organs well known by all Arab and foreign states."

'Awn said that public opinion needs to know something about the personal and scientific qualifications of those who are carrying out the administrative purge operation, whether in the government or the Chamber of Deputies, before starting to open others' files. This is because the track records of some of those who are in power, whether with regard to the administrative-political dimension or dealing with Israel, are a source of pride to no one at all. Thus the process must begin with those who should be—legally and scientifically—gotten rid of, and the Lebanese people know one another well.

He spoke about the "the final collapse stage," saying that "after the political collapse represented in that ruling clique to which Lebanon has never witnessed a similar formation before, in terms of obedience and receiving orders, and after the economic collapse reflected today in the tragic situation experienced by Lebanese workers, we come to the administration collapse represented in depriving the administration of the last influential figures that can do something positive.... The reason is to destroy the homeland's components with a view to distributing appeasement prizes."

Citing the possibility of Lebanese beauty queen Ghadi al-Turk being sued for standing next to the Israeli beauty queen, 'Awn said: It is a strange state. It is a strange situation we are experiencing: A beauty queen is referred to court, when Lebanese officials who meet regularly with Israeli officials secretly and publicly in the region, Europe, and the United States are still occupying the seats of assured power. He warned against the present Lebanese political rhetoric, "which considers Jews in the world to be enemies." He pointed out that the dispute is "with the Israelis, not the Jews, and the dispute is on its way to a solution in the first place."

Israeli Plan on 4-Stage Pullout Said Rejected

JN0712125693 *Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic* 1200 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Text] An interesting article in the English-language SYRIA TIMES today stresses that Syria rejected an Israeli proposal that was communicated by Warren Christopher on the withdrawal from the Golan in four stages in exchange for complete and immediate peace with Israel.

Radio Urges 'Just' Peace, U.S. Pressure

JN0612175293 *Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic* 1230 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: When he received U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Syria's leader reaffirmed that Syria had responded to every honest effort to establish just and comprehensive peace in the region—objectives of the peace process that was launched in Madrid. The Syrian position is in harmony with the efforts of the United States, sponsor of the peace process, and with the desire of the whole international community. Israel alone is trying to disavow the formula of a just and comprehensive peace, to promote the policy of unilateral deals, and to paralyze the framework of the Washington bilateral talks. These attempts, however, have failed as a result of the insistence of the U.S. sponsor and the international community on advancing the peace process on all tracks toward its desired goal.

In light of this, the U.S. secretary of state renews his endeavors in the region to resume the Washington talks. In return for Syria's response to these endeavors, nothing has leaked from Israel indicating Israel has changed its position and would deal seriously with the peace process when the Washington talks resumed. Over the past two years, Israel has used the rounds of the previous talks to waste time, pending a chance to strike a secret unilateral deal. Nothing indicates that the Israelis will hesitate to exploit the upcoming negotiations and to achieve the same previous purpose. Israel still announces and stresses its commitment to partial, unilateral deals. Although daily events on the ground in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip prove that such deals cannot lead to peace but to its opposite, Israel still wants to divide the solution as a way of imposing its concept of peace and meeting its interests.

Although the whole world is fully aware of the dangers and repercussions of such an Israeli logic about and concept of world peace, the Israelis insist on sticking to them. This means that if they meet the desires of the international community and the U.S. sponsor to resume negotiations in Washington, Israel's response may be just a formal one or merely a maneuver to circumvent international determination to promote just and comprehensive peace and may seek another chance to depart

from the framework and content of the formula of the march, as defined in Madrid.

Experience over the past two years of negotiations does not give any credibility to Israel's position and does not show that the upcoming negotiations will not be other futile rounds to waste time. Hence, the resumption of the peace talks in Washington is not a goal in itself. The goal is just and comprehensive peace. In order to reach that goal, Israel should indicate its commitment to it, after all its previous practices have proved total conflict with that goal. Unless such a commitment is made to express Israel's seriousness and its commitment to the principles of just and comprehensive peace and to the requirements of peace, as defined by the bases of the peace process, we do not think that returning to negotiations will lead to better results than those of the previous 11 rounds of talks.

We also believe that it is not difficult for the United States, which has committed itself to the goal of just and comprehensive peace, to take a strong position toward an Israel that is paralyzing that goal. Such a position can deter Israel from continuing its maneuvers and will force it to bow to international decision to go ahead with the just and comprehensive peace.

Israel Urged To Quit 'Anti-Peace Posture'

JN0712090193 *Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic* 0545 GMT 7 Dec

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-BA'TH discusses the peace process and Warren Christopher's Middle East tour. The paper writes: The U.S. secretary of state is pursuing his efforts to push the peace process forward and arrange a date for a resumption of the Washington talks. If his efforts are limited to setting a date for restarting the Washington talks regardless of Israel's position on the peace process, they amount to very little. This is because a resumption of the bilateral talks should not be an end in itself; what really matters is where the talks are headed in the immediate term.

AL-BA'TH goes on: Thanks to Israel's stubbornness and its failure to approximate the clear foundations on which the peace process was launched, and for more than two years, these negotiations have failed to advance the peace process an inch. If peace is not fair and general and based on UN resolutions and international legitimacy, AL-BA'TH observes, it will be an incomplete and wobbly peace, regardless of Israel's attempts to portray it otherwise. Any peace settlement that fails to address occupation and recognize rights is deficient and thus carries the seeds of its demise. Logically and legally, such a peace adds up to Arab capitulation to occupation, which Syria has never accepted and never will.

AL-BA'TH says in conclusion: We believe then that laying the groundwork for a resumption of the bilateral talks and making any amount of progress on all the tracks of the peace

process is subject to a public Israeli commitment to UN resolutions and the U.S. peace initiative.

AL-THAWRAH writes under the headline "Syria's Earnestness and Israel's Obstacles:" Without a doubt, during his most recent trip to Damascus, Warren Christopher must have sensed Syria's undoubted concern, earnestness, and clarity of position toward the peace process. The U.S. secretary, the paper goes on, must have emerged from his meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad impressed by an unaltered Syrian commitment to a fair and comprehensive Middle East peace and abiding interest in cooperation with the United States to follow the process through to the end on both the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. Mr. Christopher must have also gained the impression that Syria's only condition to resume the peace process is a guarantee that it promises to lead to a just and comprehensive peace predicated on the land-for-peace formula and international legitimacy. By contrast, during his visit to occupied Palestine, Christopher found no single piece of evidence to point to a real Israeli interest in or consideration for the peace process or commitment to the foundations on which it was launched. Not to mention Israeli leaders' statements betraying an inveterate hostility to the peace process and its targets. The Israeli leaders, AL-THAWRAH adds, thus display a faulty understanding of the parameters of the peace process and a position governed by hostility toward the entire exercise.

Confirming Israel's typically tortuous and less than serious position toward the drive to promote a just and comprehensive peace, Shim'on Peres has indicated that while an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights is not out of question, the pullout will not be from the entire territory. The paper stresses that Syria joined a peace enterprise focused on a just and comprehensive settlement under which occupied territory is vacated, rights are recognized, and regional security and stability cemented. It was mainly thanks to Syria, the paper goes on, that the peace process kicked off to begin with. Syria will, under no circumstances, allow the substance of the process to be misinterpreted or distorted, the paper adds.

Israel should stop playing transparent games and skipping the fundamentals of the conflict and a fair and universal peace. Once Israel, with the benefit of U.S. pressure, quits its anti-peace posture, it may be said that the peace project has begun to show progress, AL-THAWRAH concludes.

NPF Meets Under al-Asad, Reviews Peace Process

JN0512065493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0518 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Text] The Central Command of the National Progressive Front [NPF] held a meeting chaired by His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad yesterday evening. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' attended.

The NPF Central Command reviewed the regional and Arab state of affairs, as well as the courses the peace process has taken on various tracks. It was also apprised of the contacts pertaining to developments in the peace process currently under way on the Arab and international scenes.

The NPF Central Command underscored Syria's commitment to national and pan-Arab constants, and also to the objective of achieving just and comprehensive peace. The NPF Central Command believes that regional developments have shown the soundness of the Syrian position. It expressed satisfaction with the increased support for Syria's pan-Arab course on the Arab scene, and also with the emergence of international understanding for Syria's constructive role in the peace process.

The NPF Central Command hailed the efforts made by Syria, under His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, to achieve a just and comprehensive peace grounded in the resolutions of international legitimacy. These efforts, the NPF Central Command maintained, have consecrated Syria's key role on the regional and international scenes.

The NPF Central Command expressed full confidence in the course being pursued by his excellency the president, the course which seeks to promote Syria's national interests as well as the Arabs' pan-Arab interests.

Draft Resolution Supporting War Effort Endorsed

JN0612204793 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Excerpt] The People's Assembly held a session under Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah this evening. At the beginning of the session, a summary of the written questions by Assembly members were read out and referred to competent authorities through the Council of Ministers.

Then a report from the Laws Committee and the National Security Committee on a draft resolution on extending financial contribution to the war effort until 31 December 1994 was also read out. Several members stressed the importance of supporting the war effort and confronting the challenges. They called for endorsing the draft resolution, as circumstances that have led to its issuance still exist.

Finance Minister Dr. Muhammad Khalid al-Mahayini explained some points in the draft resolution. After discussing it, the Assembly endorsed the draft resolution and made it a law. [passage omitted]

Lebanese Minister Meets With Counterpart

JN0512082093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0520 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Text] Damascus—Yesterday evening, an official round of talks was held at the Ministry of Transportation between the Syrian Arab side headed by Transportation Minister Dr. Mufid 'Abd-al-Karim, and the Lebanese

side headed by Lebanese Transportation Minister 'Umar Masqawi. Nasri Khuri, secretary general of the Higher Syrian-Lebanese Council attended.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim spoke at the beginning of the session, noting that this meeting is aimed at allowing conferees to follow up on measures pertaining to the implementation of the agreement signed by the two fraternal states, which identifies the prospects and areas of multifaceted cooperation in the field of transportation. He affirmed that the harmonious ties between the two peoples in Syria and Lebanon are extremely strong. He added: Given the special ties between us, we seek to live up to the expectations of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, the nation's leader.

For his part, Masqawi noted the importance of such meetings, which are designed to achieve integration so that Syria and Lebanon may address all the dangers they could face in the future.

Cypriot House Speaker, Delegation Arrive

JN0612140393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] Alexis Galanos, president of the Cypriot House of Representatives, arrived in Damascus today at the head of a parliamentary delegation on a visit to Syria lasting several days. Galanos and the delegation accompanying

him were received at Damascus International Airport by 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, speaker of the Syrian people's Assembly; Shakir Is'ayyid, chairman of the Arab and Foreign Committee at the People's Assembly; several Assembly members; the Assembly secretary; and the Cypriot ambassador in Damascus and the Embassy staff.

Galanos made a statement on arrival expressing his and his delegation's happiness at visiting Syria. He said: The visit expresses the very strong relations between the two countries and the two parliaments. He stressed the need to strengthen relations and increase rapprochement among small states to confront the very difficult international situation. He described relations between the two countries and peoples in Syria and Cyprus as historic and traditional, stressing ties of friendship between the two countries' peoples. He also expressed hope that the visit would promote the existing relations between the two peoples and parliaments.

Galanos thanked People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah and the Syrian people for the invitation. He added: We must exert our utmost efforts to establish the new world order based on respect for international law and the UN Charter and resolutions and work to prevent aggressions by countries that are using their power to impose their particular desires on the region.

Afghanistan

Pakistan Envoy Meets Rabbani, Views Fighting

BK0712041793 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Text] Pakistan has expressed grave concern over the ongoing fighting between government troops and Engineer Golboddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] forces in the Tagab region of Afghanistan. The concern was expressed by Amir Usman, Pakistani ambassador to Afghanistan, during a meeting with Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani yesterday. The Pakistani ambassador called for the immediate cessation of the internecine fighting and drew the Afghan president's attention to Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's recent statement in which she expressed Pakistan's readiness to assist in improving the situation. President Rabbani asked the ambassador to convey his message of thanks to the Pakistani prime minister for her concern and continued interest in the welfare and prosperity of the people of Afghanistan. He said that efforts are under way to seek solutions to the problems currently confronting Afghanistan.

*Conflict Threatens Widespread Flooding

94P50050A

[Editorial Report] London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic on 27 and 28 November carries reporting from London and Kabul on the fighting between Afghan factions.

In a 27 November report on page 5, the newspaper says forces belonging to Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar on 26 November cut the road between Kabul and the Pakistani border, threatening the capital with starvation during the winter. This development followed air and ground attacks launched by President Borhanoddin Rabbani's forces on Hekmatyar's positions. The paper says it appears the meaning of these attacks was to prevent Hekmatyar from beginning further military operations against the Tagab area, where some of former Defense Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud's most important military bases are located.

It reports Hekmatyar over the last five weeks has attempted to extend his control over Tagab in hopes of isolating Mas'ud's forces in the Panjshir Valley north of Kabul. Mas'ud has tried to push Hekmatyar's forces out of Laghman Province east of Kabul.

On 28 November, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT reports on page 5 that UN experts said fighting continued between mujahedin factions, threatening to destroy two large dams, which would cause a catastrophe in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iran. They said the main danger was to a dam on the Kabul River west of the capital. Hekmatyar's forces control the area of the dam, and it has been subjected to a concentrated artillery barrage. A UN expert who refused to give his name said, "If the dam

bursts, the water which is pent up behind it now will inundate hundreds of villages in southeast Afghanistan and numerous regions in northwest Pakistan...."

The publication states another important water project on the Hermand (Helmand) River, which empties into Lake Hamun in Iran's Sistan (Sigistan) va Baluchestan Province, is endangered. Hekmatyar's followers have recently launched attacks in the area controlled by Esma'il Agha, who styles himself "the Emir of Herat."

A source close to Mas'ud said on 27 November that airforce bombers have strict orders to avoid bombing any economic or industrial targets, and a Hekmatyar spokesman said that it would be "ridiculous for us to intentionally inundate our own territories and strongholds."

Telecommunications Reconstruction Under Way

LD0312234893 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] Afghanistan's communications with foreign countries, linked by the Shamshad system, has been cut off since last year. The Shamshad system was the only means of communication with foreign countries and via this system telephone, telegraph, and telex communication, as well as radio-tv broadcasts, linked the outside world and provinces in the country.

The system was hit by rockets in Sowr 1371 [21 April-20 May 1992] during the destructive fighting imposed by Golboddin Hekmatyar. Ever since then the system has remained idle. Esteemed Engineer Amin Jan, official in charge of the Shamshad system, reported to the BIA correspondent that engineers and expert workers of the Shamshad system, in perceiving their responsibility vis-a-vis this national asset, have been working hard to repair and to restore the operation of this system. He added: As far as we are concerned we have done our best but due to the lack of spare parts we did not manage to put this system into operation.

Esteemed Dastagir Sharifi, head of planning at the Ministry of Communication, said the following regarding this matter: The Shamshad system was installed and made operational by the former Soviet Union. We have sent a letter regarding the required spare parts and tools to the Machine Export Enterprise of the Russian Federation via the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Afghan Embassy in Moscow and have asked for cooperation in this respect. The Russian Federation, ignoring its responsibility, replied that the operational life span has technically ended and now the system has become nonoperational. The spare parts and technical tools, consisting of 11 items, are unavailable, but five equivalent items, costing \$252,000, payable in advance, can be supplied. This would not have solved the main problem.

Esteemed Mir Abdol Wahid, head of the technical department of the Ministry of Communication, said the following regarding this issue: The Shamshad system is

not economical and does not meet the need of present-day communication requirements. Moreover, Russia does not want to supply us with spare parts.

The head of planning at the Ministry of Communication said: The 1372 [year beginning 21 March 1993] plan of the ministry envisages the purchase and installation of Intelsat direct communication system for restoring Afghanistan's international communication. Afghanistan has been a member of the international Intelsat for many years. The technical specifications of this system was supplied three years ago by the United Nations and domestic experts and then included in the Ministry of Communication's plan. After purchasing the Intelsat direct system, telephone, telex, and (?telegraphic) communication with the outside world and relaying radio-tv broadcasts to the provinces will become possible. The government will earn 350 million afghanis every month, which will be 1.5 billion per year, by operating the Intelsat system. The benefit and interesting aspect of this system is the operation of FIX [as heard] in the system, which Shamshad did not have.

Economically the Intelsat system is beneficial and guarantees Afghanistan's independence in relations with foreign countries. Materials can be directly sent to the Indian Sea via Intelsat system and from there will reach the world in a few seconds. Asked about Afghanistan's current links with other countries, Esteemed Sharifi said: The Islamic Republic of Pakistan restored Afghanistan's links with Peshawar, Karachi, and Islamabad free of charge via the (?Majrob) system installed inside Afghanistan. Communication with other countries is linked via satellite. Obviously there are technical difficulties in this respect. The BIA correspondent writes that the Shamshad system demonstrated the problem of Afghanistan dependency on the former Soviet Union in the area of communication. The engineers and officials of the Ministry of Communication say that by the installation of Intelsat system Afghanistan can join the [words indistinct] international system and can make arrangement for sending and receiving radio-TV news and programs. Of course, instability and an undesirable economic situation stemming from the fighting are major obstacles to the installation of such a system. However, one should not wait for all problems to be solved and then start reconstruction. Reconstruction, including the country's communication links, must be started now.

India

New Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Sworn In

BK0712080093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Text] Mr. Digvijay Singh has been sworn in as the chief minister of Madhya Pradesh. He was administered the oath of office and secrecy by the governor, Mr. Mohammad Shafi Qureshi, at a function in Raj Bhavan [Governor's House], Bhopal, this morning. The union minister for environment, Mr. Kamal Nath; AICC-I [All

India Congress Committee-I] general secretary, Mr. S.K. Shinde; and the former chief minister, Mr. Sunderlal Patwa, were among those present at the swearing-in ceremony. AIR [All India Radio] Bhopal correspondent reports that Mr. Digvijay Singh is the 20th chief minister of the state. The Congress-I has returned to power in the state after a gap of about four years.

Islamabad TV Reports Deaths in Kashmir Clashes

BK0412144693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 4 Dec 93

[Text] In occupied Kashmir, 26 Kashmiri youths are reported to have been tortured to death in Khargil area by Indian soldiers. News of the killing sparked severe clashes between Indian troops and mojahedin throughout the held valley. At least 24 people were martyred in the clashes. Ten Indian soldiers were also killed in clashes with mojahedin in areas surrounding Srinagar.

Meanwhile, the siege of Sopor by the Indian Army is still continuing while Kupwara is also in the grip of military crackdown.

Commentary Urges Vigilance Following Train Blasts

BK0712050093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Commentary by S.C. Bhatt]

[Text] Once again the nation's enemies have struck. Nine months ago in Bombay, the commercial capital of India, a series of bombs were set off almost simultaneously in which some 300 people lost their lives. At some intervals, there had been blasts in Calcutta and Madras and at the Secunderabad railway station. Now, the masked men have chosen five major trains as their targets.

It is not for the first time that the devilish creatures who exploded those bombs have failed in their target of finishing off a number of people. Or their target was not so much to kill as to spread panic and alarm among the millions who have to take a train everyday. Perhaps they set out to achieve both the goals. But let us tell them that India has survived the Bombay blasts and the train blasts will not succeed in causing confusion in our ranks. But for that to be achieved, both the government and the people have to display the utmost vigilance, vigilance not only against the foreign hand which is behind all these killings and destruction, but also against the enemy within. We have to remain vigilant against forces seeking to set Indians against Indians and brothers against brothers.

Also, the utmost vigilance is called for against people at home who talk the glib language of human rights for and forbearance toward the perpetrators of such grave crimes against other human beings. The authorities have to

exercise the maximum alert against forces seeking to create confusion and panic. If people also add their watchfulness to the vigilance of the police, there is no reason the evil men who play into the hands of Pakistan and plant explosives to kill their own brethren cannot be caught before such blasts go off.

The ISI [Inter Service Intelligence] agency of Pakistan had trained the Memon brothers and others who caused terrible destruction in the Bombay blasts. The Memons are being harbored in Pakistan, but few voices are now being raised for their extradition to India. The Bombay police did a remarkable job in catching dozens of those who were associated with the Memons, but they have not yet been brought to book. It is essential that we change our attitude and lend strength to the police so that each and everyone who was directly or indirectly linked with the blast is punished—no matter how high his connections. This also applies to the culprits responsible for the train and other blasts.

The criminals who set off bombs on the five trains must be caught and Pakistan's role in instigating and abetting them must be exposed before world opinion. The wisdom of talking to Islamabad would also be questioned by many at a time when the hidden hand of the ISI is spreading death and destruction in our country. Above all, as a nation we cannot allow our guard to be lowered.

Editorials Criticizes U.S. South Asian Policy

State Department 'in Cahoots' With Pakistan

BK0612043793 Delhi *INDIAN EXPRESS* in English 26 Nov 93 p 8

[Editorial: "Intriguing Twist"]

[Text] If the Clinton administration is genuinely keen to promote detente between India and Pakistan, then it obviously does not know how to go about it. This impression has been reinforced by an intriguing statement by the US State Department on the morrow of the official announcement about resumption of talks between the Indian and Pakistani Foreign Secretaries in Islamabad from January 1 to 3. The Department's spokesman, Mike McCurry has said that the Pressler Amendment (making Pakistan ineligible for most US assistance because of its nuclear weapons programme) does not advance the non-proliferation objective. This is known to have been the view of some US officials. But why did the State Department find it necessary to reiterate it pointedly at this juncture and especially when the idea does not seem to have crystallised into a clear-cut policy? McCurry, for instance, says he was not certain whether the State Department's position on the Pressler Amendment had been formally sent to Capitol Hill.

As of now, a plausible explanation could be that it is meant to help Benazir Bhutto meet domestic criticism of her willingness to open a dialogue with India or to conclude a deal with the US on the nuclear issue. It is no

secret that she has a strong lobby in the US Democratic Party which has projected her as a leader genuinely committed not only to strengthening democracy in Pakistan but also to accepting a reasonable settlement with India on Kashmir and the nuclear issue. Her friends in Washington should naturally be interested in increasing her domestic capital by signalling an official gesture on the highly sensitive question of freeing Pakistan from the Pressler fetters. But what is the guarantee that such help in improving Benazir Bhutto's image in her country as someone who can wrest important concessions from the mighty US, will actually pay dividends? This is not an academic question. US policy on Somalia, Haiti, Bosnia and even the Pacific has been marked either by plain bumbling or wishful thinking. Also, conflicting pulls in the US Congress are apt to hamstring American diplomacy and thus distort professed goals.

New Delhi will have to be exceptionally vigilant. The Raphael affair underlined the threat to India's interests posed by superficial understanding of the history of Indo-Pakistan problems by American officials. Besides, Washington's stubborn refusal to take a serious enough view of admitted Pakistan-sponsored terrorism in Kashmir has made many in India wonder what the Americans are really up to. And as if such indulgence of Pakistan was not enough, the State Department is now openly in cahoots with Islamabad in trying to get the Pressler Amendment scuttled. An Indo-Pakistani dialogue is, of course, important. But what is the price India is expected to pay eventually for an American satisfaction that everything will be fine in South Asia? This is the crucial question.

U.S. Accepting 'Convoluting Logic'

BK0412130693 Delhi *PATRIOT* in English 27 Nov 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Pressler and All That"]

[Text] The reported U.S. move to repeal the Pressler amendment is the latest indication of changing American diplomacy towards South Asia. Ms. Robin Raphael's absurd remarks on Kashmir, questioning the Instrument of Accession; Mr. Warren Christopher's letter of appreciation to the Prime Minister on the peaceful solution of the Hazratbal crisis; and now the move to scrap the Pressler amendment, paradoxically, are all part of a change. The Pressler amendment came into effect on October 1, 1990 mainly to chastise the countries of South Asia which were refusing to sign the NPT [Non-proliferation Treaty] and surrender the right to acquire nuclear weapons. In Pakistan's case, the punishment was to cut off military and economic aid to which that country had got so accustomed that its elite could not do without it. The amendment has been a major irritant between Islamabad and Washington. Amending this amendment would give Mr. Clinton freedom to resume aid to Pakistan. It would give an instant reward to premier Benazir Bhutto, currently America's favourite among Pak leaders. However, by implication this move is more anti-Indian than pro-Pakistan. It carries strong

implications for India. The stated purpose of the U.S. decision, the Americans say, is not to allow Pakistan to go nuclear but encourage it to look for a more "equitable and non-discriminatory" application of punitive measures against nuclear threshold countries. Another justification provided is that the Pressler law "no longer serves U.S. nonproliferation objectives in South Asia." It is a well-known fact that New Delhi and Washington are not on the same wavelength on the NPT. While the U.S. wants India to sign the NPT on the dotted lines, India regards the treaty as unacceptable because it is discriminatory. Pakistan has expressed its willingness to sign the NPT, provided the U.S. forces India to submit on the NPT. The idea is to give currency to propaganda that India does not want a nuclear-free South Asia. The pro-Pakistani lobby in the U.S. has been arguing that Pressler's restrictions target Pakistan alone and no other country. Pakistan's ruling elite wants Pressler employed against India, although this country has no military nuclear programme. It appears that Mr. Clinton has accepted this convoluted logic. It is rightly apprehended that the new law, when approved by the U.S. Congress, can be used to deny American aid to India. And correspondingly aid can be resumed to Pakistan. India's political leaders have so long been passive on this issue that it is probably futile for them to say anything different from the mantra they have repeated these last 30 years. Our so-called open option policy should be made really open. Ms. Bhutto's assertion that Pakistan's nuclear programme cannot be capped and Mr. Clinton's move to scrap the Pressler amendment should persuade India to undertake an in-depth review of the whole issue.

Iran

Nateq-Nuri Denies Majles-President 'Crisis'

NC0612192793 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 29 Nov 93 p 11

[Interview with Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri by an unidentified reporter in Tehran; date not given]

[Text] [AL-SAFIR] We would like to concentrate on the "crisis of relations" between the Majles and the president of the Republic and briefly discuss the secondary "crisis" between the Majles and the management of the radio and television.

[Nateq-Nuri] There is, fortunately, good and necessary coordination between the Majles and the government, and between the Majles and the president. The Majles is extremely careful with the bills and proposals presented to it, especially by the government. Some members agree, while others disagree with the government. Usually, ministers want prompt decisions about their plans and proposals. The best evidence of the high-level coordination was the decision of the fourth Majles [not further identified], which was returned to his excellency the president with approval.

In return, the government needs to coordinate, especially since six or seven ministers have no base in the Majles (they are generally technocrats, not from the "majority" trend as they call it).

[AL-SAFIR] But the Majles withheld confidence from a prominent minister, namely the economy minister, and that appeared as an objection to the president's policy. The statement of the radio and television management then gave the impression that there is a crisis in the relations between the Majles and the president.

[Nateq-Nuri] Concerning the former economy and finance minister, it was natural for the Majles to withhold confidence from him. When the Majles discusses the full dossier of the government, it can give total confidence or withhold it from this minister or that. Voting takes place on every individual minister. When the president presented his ministers and explained why he chose each one of them, 23 ministers won confidence, and only the economy minister failed to win it. I was the head of the Majles, and it never occurred to me that confidence would be withheld from that minister. But the president's explanation was not sufficiently convincing, probably because he never thought that the deputies would withhold confidence from the minister. Those who opposed the minister were only a few members at the beginning, but when the president said that the minister was the engineer of the infrastructure and economic development of all Iran, and that we were experiencing inflation after the war, he created a misunderstanding that led to the "revolution" of the deputies and their withholding of confidence.

The confidence was withheld by a majority of three votes only. This shows that the economic policy of the president was not rejected. Some papers wanted to link this issue and the statement of the radio and television, especially that the man entrusted by the leader to supervise that establishment is Mohammad Hashemi, the brother of the president.

[AL-SAFIR] While the president may bear the consequences, outsiders will think there is a confrontation between the Majles and the president. The oppositionists adopt a different policy, the minister adopts a certain policy, and so does the president. Are the differences ultimately political?

[Nateq-Nuri] This is the analysis of people outside Iran; this is how they explained things from the very beginning. But the truth is what I am telling you. The two questions are unrelated. The internal tasks of the Majles are put on the program according to their priorities. Some Majles teams are responsible for checking on government institutions and conditions. Last year, the Majles was asked to discuss the radio and television. It was up to the Majles to decide, and the issue was placed on the Majles list of topics. When the time came to discuss it, a Majles team went to discuss the situation with the radio and television establishment. There was no problem between the Majles and the president. The

fact that the president and the head of the radio and television are brothers is irrelevant; only foreigners analyze the situation differently.

As you know, in our system, one is not judged by the actions of his brothers or uncles. If a decision is made to try a person, he will be tried in accordance with the law; the person and his relations are irrelevant.

No one can be punished for a mistake made by his brother. The radio and television establishment was involved in an unpleasant act. Later, it responded to our decision, and I indicated that in the Majles open session.

[AL-SAFIR] If I wanted to be frank, I would say that this answer is diplomatic.

[Nateq-Nuri] This is the reality in our country. But we must say that in our free and democratic country, like all democratic systems, there are people with pro-government views and others with antigovernment views. Those who write in the morning newspaper SALAM are opponents of the government and stand against the majority of the Majles.

[AL-SAFIR] Why? Is it for political or economic reasons or for personal interests?

[Nateq-Nuri] That group was previously in the Majles, and we...

[AL-SAFIR] Who are they? And who are you?

[Nateq-Nuri] Those who oppose the Majles are behind that newspaper. In the past, they made up the ruling majority in the Majles, but now we represent the overwhelming majority. To answer your question, they represent the Majma'-ye Rowhaniyun-E Mobarez [Militant Clerics Society], and we represent the Jameh-ye Rowhaniyat-E Mobarez [Militant Clergy Association]. Their economic views contradict those of the president. Indeed, they adopt radical economic and political views, and they do not accept the policy of his excellency the president.

[AL-SAFIR] Are you the liberals?

[Nateq-Nuri] We are not liberals. There are liberals represented by Nehzat-E Azadi [the Freedom Movement], and there are the "Nationalists." At the head of those is Engineer Mehdi Bazargan. They represent liberalism in this country. There is another radical group that rejects the economic policy.

[AL-SAFIR] Like Karrubi and Mohtashami?

[Nateq-Nuri] Yes. And we represent the moderates, in accordance with the Koranic verse: "We made of you an Ummat justly balanced." I do not know if the answer is logical this time.

[AL-SAFIR] Coming from the Majles speaker, who is in charge of everybody, it is.

President Urged To Control Economic Damage

NC0412170693 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL (WEEKLY EDITION) in English 25 Nov 93 p 2

[Editorial by Ramtin: "Mr. President, It's Time for Firm Action"]

[Text] As we go to print, the price of the greenback in Tehr n's overpopulated "free market" is fast approaching 200 tumans. And, whether we like it or not, the rate of the dollar has a brutishly direct bearing on commodity prices in our country. In less than three weeks the Iranian currency depreciated at terrific speed; from somewhere between 160 to 163 tumans to the dollar in early November; to about 190 tumans on Wednesday [24 November].

The first and most negative impact of this confusion in our money markets, with the blessings of the Central Bank governor, is that many basic necessities have either vanished or their prices are spiralling around 30 percent. Indeed, it is a big blow to the fixed salary group and the multitudes who live below the poverty line. There was also a time when most luxurious items were removed from the reach of ordinary Iranians. The people consented then because the ultimate goal was much higher than complaining about economic difficulties.

Four years after the Iraqi aggression ended, a growing number of educated, religious and patriotic Iranians are wondering as to who really is responsible for this state of chaos which is certain to have grave consequences for the economic and political integrity of the nation.

This past August, the peoples representatives in the Majles rejected President Rafsanjani's economy and finance minister. The vote of no-confidence was an implicit response to the chief executive's program of economic reforms. Majority of the Iranians were being cornered and rendered helpless due to the free fall of the rial and runaway inflation.

That was four months ago and amid shocks following the 95.6 percent devaluation of the rial engineered by Mr. Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli, the chief of Iran's Central Bank. Today the situation has taken a turn for the worst. Maybe by the year's end our economy will show its true colors as bankruptcies will reach crises proportions and even the basics will be snatched away from the vulnerable groups.

One thing is for sure. The situation will worsen and not get any better. Galloping inflation, open mismanagement of the economic sector, indifference towards the common strata who are the main supporters of President Rafsanjani, decline in the international price of oil—all will get together to make life intolerable and miserable for this nation of over 60 million people. Of course the affluent and the influential need not worry about Mr. 'Adeli's decisions. The value of their properties, movable and immovable, is appreciating in a manner unprecedented in recent memory. Hoarders and profiteers have

raised prices of several items including computers, home appliances, electronics, some food products—between 20 to 30 percent.

The entire concept of social justice in our country was never considered an easy venture. On and off our political leaders do express their "wish" to work selflessly for that cause. But it seems that justice is last in the queue. If the current trends are any indication, the turn for social justice may never come. President Rafsanjani should at least make a small attempt to address the grievances of the silent majority. Praise be to Allah, our country does not lack dedicated and experienced economists who are prepared to help planners and policymakers. Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani can count on their expertise and goodwill to control further damage to the fragile economic sector and return some degree of economic security to the millions who voted for him.

Editorial Deplores Economic 'Extravagance'

NC0412152593 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 28 Nov 93 p 2

[Editorial by M. P.: "Fiscal Reforms"]

[Text] As we approach our Second Five-Year Plan beginning March 1994, fiscal and economic reforms become a critical necessity, to save the economy from the morass that it seems to be floundering in.

The throes of economic development are painful for any country, especially in the third world. We, as a developing nation, are still in the process of massive reconstruction and reform, particularly in the aftermath of the eight-year Iraqi imposed war. But recovery after the war years has been slow and sluggish, primarily because of uncoordinated and inconsistent policies.

The government's loosening of monetary controls to revive industry and increase production, has only boosted the demand for hard currency and further devalued the rial, instead of unleashing the productive potentials of the Iranian entrepreneurship.

Today, the government seems to be spending money faster than [it] is making it. The dollar has risen against the rial because of shortage of hard currency, caused by falling oil prices and rising interest payments on the nation's short-term foreign commitments. Thus the dire need to control the deficit.

The relaxation of some import restrictions on raw material and equipment, to ease pressure on industry has not really spurred economic growth, but merely delayed the process of economic reforms.

As the common man struggles to make ends meet, the prices steadily rise, further weakening the purchasing power of the people.

Our primary source of income—oil revenues—needs to be judiciously spent. In fact, the entire gamut of government spending, at home and abroad, need to be reviewed, with a rearrangement in the order of priority.

To make a point, why do our representatives abroad need to be housed in the most luxurious locations, (or have the best of facilities) in Europe, African and Asian cities (as stated by Interior Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati in an interview with HAMSHAHR1 last week), which must be costing the earth?

A large chunk of government revenue is sure to be going towards this non-developmental expenditure. Why does our local police department need the latest model of Toyotas and Benzs when the Peugeots, which are assembled here at half the cost, are equally good? Are these status symbols in any way going to improve their efficiency?

Extravagance, one thought, vanished with the shah and his brigade. Simplicity was the lifestyle and motto of our leader, Imam Khomeyni (may his soul rest in peace).

The Islamic Republic is still a fledgling, developing nation. But there are fleeting impressions of the first world—the dazzling variety of imported goods, which are available in abundance. Note the number of automobile showrooms sporting the latest models of cars which have mushroomed all over Tehran. All these luxuries benefit only a minuscule percentage of the population. There should be some morality in economics too.

Yazdi Comments on Media; 3 Judges Dismissed

LD0612164393 Tehran IRIB Television First Program
Network in Persian 1530 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Excerpts] Head of the Judiciary Ayatollah Mohamad Yazdi announced at a meeting of the country's top justice officials today that those engaged in the dissemination of irresponsible remarks and publication of untrue remarks and figures in the mass media will be made accountable and liable to legal prosecution.

He added: In implementation of their duties in maintaining a sound political environment and in safeguarding interests of the individual members of the public, as well as the higher interests of the Islamic Republic system, competent officials will recognize dissemination of lies as a common criminal act, and as such they will comply with their legal duties. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, at a meeting of the Supreme Disciplinary Court, three judges—from among five judges against whom documents were submitted—were dismissed from judicial service. The other two were retained in their positions and also in judicial service because the evidence against them was rejected.

Christopher Tour To Lead to 'Same Scenario'*NC0612221093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1750 GMT 6 Dec 93*

["Political Report"]

[Text] As part of his new tour of the Middle East, the U.S. secretary of state arrived last night in Damascus, where he met with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and handed him a private message from U.S. President Bill Clinton. In his message, Clinton stressed the need to find solutions to the Middle East problems and to reach a just peace in this region. The main goal of Christopher's new tour of a number of countries in the region is to give impetus to the peace talks, particularly between Syria and Israel. It seems that the U.S. secretary is carrying with him proposals to Syrian officials in a bid to bring the peace talks between Damascus and Israel out of their current deadlock. Although no word is available on the nature of these U.S. proposals, political circles believe that they include a withdrawal by Israeli troops from some parts of the Golan Heights as a first step and upgrading the contacts between the Syrian and Israeli sides to the leadership level.

It is important here to note that the peace talks between the Arabs and Israel came to a halt after the Gaza-Jericho agreement was signed between the PLO and the Zionist entity. The agreement, which was a dramatic turn in the peace process, brought to light the Zionist entity's failure to comply with the principles and foundations on which the Middle East peace talks was based. The peace talks between the Arabs and Israel, which started in Madrid, are supposed to be based on implementing UN Resolutions 242 and 338 to find a just and comprehensive peace between the Arab states and Israel. On this premise, Syria has accused Israel of trying to derail the negotiations and of not being serious enough in these talks. This has resulted in freezing the peace. Before Christopher's departure for the Middle East, Syrian media and officials called on President Clinton and his secretary of state to pressure Israel to compel it to withdraw from all the occupied territories.

Thus, it could be said that the chances of success of Christopher's new mission in the Middle East depend first and foremost on Washington's ability to prompt Tel Aviv to implement the Security Council resolutions. The past experience on this did not lead to any positive results for the Arabs. In addition, the remarks made by a number of Zionist officials, in which they stressed that the Arabs must forget about the past UN resolutions, increase the likelihood that the same scenario will be repeated once again.

U.S. Seen Attempting To 'Sabotage' Security*LD0412132893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1100 GMT 4 Dec 93*

[Text] People all over the world are increasingly concerned about America's efforts to sabotage international

security. This concern is derived from the fact that America tries to keep secret its various acts aimed at destroying security the world over. However, the aware people of the world invariably know about America's huge arsenal and the sabotage plans of the CIA and the Pentagon. At present, without there being any need for direct control by the Defense Ministry, the American arms industry's production capacity is growing fast, a growth that is merely aimed at enhancing hegemonistic capabilities. The production lines in American arms industry are currently open to most types of weapons, including nuclear, chemical, and biological ones. In America's arms storage cites, which in the post cold war era are kept in various parts of that country, there are right now \$9 billion of strategic military equipment, which at suitable times enter the international arms trade markets.

At present the Pentagon is intent on selling more military equipment to other countries, and seeks to increase arms sales to foreign states from the present 15 percent of total American arms production to 25 percent during the next few years. It is obvious that to meet this target America will try its best to put countries of the world, especially in the Middle East, in a state of constant tension. In pursuit of this objective, already the value of contracts to sell arms to foreign countries has increased from \$6.5 billion in 1366 [21 March 1987 to 22 March 1988] to \$24.1 billion in 1371 [21 March 1992 to 21 March 1993].

In one of the Pentagon's classified documents, which was revealed earlier, it has been stated that for America to be able to constantly maintain its domination over the world, it is necessary that an army with 1.6 million people at a budget of \$1.2 trillion should be formed during the next five years. For this purpose, America has tried to maintain the solidity of Western military alliances, including NATO, despite the breakdown of the eastern bloc's military pacts.

In pursuing its objectives, the Pentagon enjoys the assistance of the espionage organization of CIA. At present the budget for America's espionage activities, including the use of satellites and other advanced technological devices, runs at \$30 billion per year. The bulk of espionage activities are, however, carried out by the organization's personnel, who include between 2,500 to 3,000 trained spies.

During the post cold war era, the CIA has concentrated most of its efforts on issues which concern America's vital interests, control over nuclear weapons, and finally economic espionage. Interestingly, however, under the guise of these activities, the CIA itself promotes narcotics smuggling and international terrorism. Recently, this espionage organization imported a tonne of narcotics worth more than \$20 million from Colombia to other parts of the world, including America itself.

Available evidence shows that America is always intent on reserving its right to intervene in the world. For this

reason, to achieve this objective, it will stop at nothing, even if the price for its actions is the destruction of security the world over. In this connection [passage indistinct] faced with such actions, the West European countries [passage indistinct] with their apparent or latent acts are intent on confronting some of America's interventionist endeavors.

Commentary Views Rushdie Visit to U.S.

NC0412210393 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 27 Nov 93 p 15

[Unattributed commentary: "Rushdie Seeks To Live in the U.S. Mirage"]

[Text] The British apostate author—the shedding of whose blood has been authorized—is seeking his salvation by trying to attract the support of the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign enemies. Rushdie's visit to the United States and the support he elicited from U.S. imperialism can be considered the latest gain in his endeavors. He acquired a university position, met U.S. President Bill Clinton and some other U.S. political echelons, and participated in a news conference during this visit.

Political analysts say the propaganda capital reaped from Rushdie by the United States and the spiteful report on human rights in Iran formed a calculated move. From such visits and meetings, Rushdie seeks to liberate himself from isolation and a slow demise.

Undoubtedly, Rushdie's visit to the United States was planned by Zionist circles. Zionists have a far greater influence in the U.S. Democrat faction than in the Republican party there. Clinton has never denied that he received extensive political and financial support from the Zionist circles to win the election last year.

Obviously, the meeting between the writer of the blasphemous book *The Satanic Verses* and U.S. officials took place at Rushdie's request. That Clinton entered the office of his secretary of state and met Rushdie unexpectedly or any other such fabricated version is merely an effort to divert the public. The Clinton administration is striving to project the impression that he sets great store by Muslim reaction in Islamic countries and had no plan to meet Rushdie. Before this meeting, the U.S. State Department warned its citizens abroad to be careful of their safety.

Rushdie, the writer of the sacrilegious and blasphemous book *The Satanic Verses*, is trying to liberate himself from five years of isolation and stop living in hiding, so he has extended his hand toward the West. He has stepped up his activities in this respect.

On his visits, which took place under heavy security, Rushdie changed his appearance to make himself unrecognizable and went to Europe to meet various individuals including political figures, journalists, and writers and asked them to campaign for his deliverance from an

existence fraught with fear and pessimism. He particularly asked those he met to pressure the Islamic Republic of Iran to have the sentence for his execution revoked.

His visit to the United States and his meeting with the President, secretary of state, and other officials comes within the nexus of such visits. The analysis that the British probably motivated Salman Rushdie to make some efforts for his salvation does not seem unlikely. The British are tired of the expensive protection they must give to someone who is now of no particular use to London and are seeking a garbage can so that they can dump the heavy burden from their shoulders and be free of him. Even if the British were to be free of the evil of Rushdie, he can never save himself from the effects of his treason against the Islamic beliefs and susceptibilities of 1 billion Muslims. Eventually, he will be consumed by the flames of the fire that he stoked with his treacherous efforts.

Clinton 'Undermined' Foreign Policy

NC0412195293 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 27 Nov 93 pp 1-2

[Editorial: "The Meeting Between the Author of *The Satanic Verses* and the White House Satan"]

[Text] The apostate author of the blasphemous book *The Satanic Verses* met U.S. President Bill Clinton and U.S. officials at the White House.

Reports on this meeting indicate a calculated plan is taking shape in contrast with regular diplomatic protocol. Normally, all the U.S. President's meetings are announced beforehand. It is being said that when Rushdie was speaking to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and National Security Adviser Anthony Lake, Clinton made an unscheduled appearance.

Later, the U.S. mass media reported worldwide that Clinton acted in support of freedom of expression and Rushdie. Although Rushdie reached the White House to find himself a way out, most political experts interpret his action as a sign of his chagrin with Europe. Rushdie was optimistic that this way he would gain a lever of pressure for having the decree against him retracted, but he appears to have realized his hopes are futile.

The efforts by Rushdie and his supporter the British Government have yielded no results, because the historic edict by his eminence Imam Khomeyni (peace be on him) is based on an Islamic ruling and no executive or government official has the authority to rescind it.

But Rushdie, who has heard much about Clinton's utterances on human rights, hopes that in this way, he can exert more pressure on the Iranian Government. The apostate writer of the profane book *The Satanic Verses* does not comprehend that the favorable promise of the U.S. Government cannot heal the wounded susceptibilities of 1 billion Muslims. Neither Rushdie nor his supporters—major and minor—seem able to accept that

freedom of expression does not mean insulting the religious sanctities of a divine religion; this is precisely why the issue can't be resolved within the framework of the political action and reaction that prevail among governments.

The individual Rushdie met in the White House has undermined the credibility of U.S. foreign policy and harmed the prestige of the American nation. It seems too farfetched to expect the U.S. citizens to agree that the inexperienced Democratic government should use the taxpayers budget for the propaganda benefit of one individual.

So, Rushdie has had one of his many meetings with a new person who is neither as sympathetic as the British nor able to raise a greater propagandistic commotion.

For Muslims, Rushdie is a traitor entrenched in the far corner of a cul-de-sac from which there is no return. He keeps shuttling between Europe one day and other places the next; this time, the author of the Satanic book went to meet the Satan of the White House.

Editorial Assails 'Usurping' Israel

NC0412185793 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 27 Nov 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Supporters of Israel Must Wait for Their Reckoning"]

[Text] On Wednesday [24 November], the elite undercover soldiers of the Israeli "Shimshon" unit, disguised as Palestinians, halted the car that was taking a commander of the Hamas fighters in north of Gaza, 'Imam 'Aqil. The soldiers gunned him down.

In response, thousands of demonstrators went to the streets in Gaza city, the nearby Jabalyah refugee camp in Khan Yunus and Rafah. According to the reports, the Israeli soldiers shot at least twenty Palestinians dead.

When Israeli soldiers are killing the Palestinians, PLO leaders and cozying with their Israeli counterparts and negotiate a limited autonomy over some parts of the whole Palestine. By recognizing Israel, PLO is signing its own demise. The acronym PLO stands for Palestine Liberation Organization. PLO must try to liberate Palestine rather than negotiate with its occupiers. But through PLO leaders have forgotten their true paths, the just problem of liberating Palestine have not been forgotten, Hamas resistance fighters have been pursuing the goal.

The United States and Israeli plan for "peace process" really started when Hamas, the popular Islamic Resistance Movement, gained momentum. Their plan has been to slow down the movement and destroy any desire for the free Palestine. As the late Imam Khomeyni said, "if you put one step back, Israel will put two steps forward." The murder of 'Imam 'Aqil testifies to this truth.

One needs to fight for his/her own rights. Muslims must follow the Koranic direction, "Make ready for them all

you can of (armed) forces and strings of horse, that thereby they may dismay the enemy of Allah and your enemy," and should not let the Zionists destroy Palestinian heroes. We all are responsible to rise and defeat the usurping Israelis and replace them with the deserving Palestinians. Those who support Israel must wait for their reckoning. Truly, the final victory belongs to the believers who follow God and desire justice for all.

UN Delegation Member: Report 'Insubstantial'

LD0412160193 Tehran IRNA in English 1357 GMT 4 Dec 93

[Text] United Nations, New York, Dec. 4, (IRNA)—A member of Iran's mission to the United Nations, Hussein Rezvani here on Friday [3 December] said that the new report of UN envoy Reynaldo Galindo Pohl did not represent the situation of human rights in Iran. He described the report as insubstantial and lacking no documentation.

Speaking to the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly, he criticized the new report of the special representative of human rights committee for gathering information from counter-revolutionary sources especially the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO).

Referring to the cooperation established between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the human rights commission in 1989, he said, "starting in 1989, meaningful dialogue between the government and the commission on human rights got underway in earnest, as a result of which the special representative paid three consecutive visits to Iran in the course of a two-year period."

These visits provided Professor Galindo Pohl with ample opportunity to familiarize himself with the real context of the situation under consideration, carry out on-site investigations and consult with government officials as well as private individuals of his choice, he said.

Rezvani said that if nothing else, the visits to the country dispelled, first and foremost for Mr. Galindo Pohl himself and then for all objective and serious observers of the situation, the long-cherished myth of massive and gross violations of human rights in Iran, allegations of which were presumably the *raison d'être* of the appointment of a special representative by the commission and inclusion of the item in the General Assembly agenda.

Moreover, during the third visit to Iran, the special representative personally observed a marked and verifiable progress in the overall situation, including in most areas previously specified in his reports. He as well observed the significant measures adopted in implementation of a number of the recommendations he had made previously. He was also informed in detail of the dynamics of the legislative process for the adoption of some of his other recommendations, Rezvani said.

The Iranian delegate said that notwithstanding the solid positive directions in the human rights observance according to the body of the special representative's final report to the 48th session of the commission, and the certainty that even superficially negative observations of the report did not even purport to indicate any deterioration in the situation, the commission adopted a resolution which manifested a total departure from the spirit and language of its predecessor. That regrettable, and in fact, unjustifiable, change of heart and attitude on the part of the traditional co-sponsors of the resolution brought to an abrupt and unconsummated end a period of mutually beneficial cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the commission, he said.

It is even more regrettable that this sudden politically-motivated change of heart, and its consequent resolution, came at a time when the Islamic Republic of Iran had officially expressed its readiness to continue cooperation with the special representative. Moreover, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) was at the time visiting prisons according to the agreement, he said.

Elsewhere in his speech, the Iranian envoy said that the special representative's unfamiliarity with the Islamic law (Shariah) has led him to conclude from the application of inheritance law that there is continued discrimination against women in Iran. Such imprudent judgments which are injurious and unacceptable to the entire world Muslim community, the Iranian people included, and which happen to be prevalent in the special representative's treatment of the situation of human rights in Iran, have indeed created difficulties in the way of cooperation between the two sides.

"Congnizant of such a problem and yet anxious to contribute, on our part, to a mutually acceptable and beneficial cooperation over years we have spared no opportunity, whether here in the general assembly or in the commission on human rights, to draw the attention of those concerned to this very important aspect of the matter. In the same breadth, we have as well emphasized on its ramifications for an objective, honest and genuine consideration of the situation under review. Our valid plea has so far fallen on deaf ears," he said.

IRNA Chief Visits Croatia, Meets Bosnian Officials

LD0612121893 Tehran IRNA in English 1158 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] Zagreb, Dec. 6, IRNA—The IRNA Managing Director Fereyduun Verdinejad here Sunday [5 December] said that Islam, unity and communications were important factors which would guarantee success of any peace talks whether in Geneva or anywhere else.

Verdinejad who is currently here made the remark in a meeting with the Bosnian minister of justice in which several religious, political and press officials were also present.

Stressing that the new world order was founded on the blood of Muslims in Somalia and Palestine, he referred to the suppression and massacre of the Bosnian people as the first achievement of the new world order.

Addressing the freedom-loving journalists, he deplored that the crimes committed in Bosnia-Herzegovina against people on charges of being Muslim have not been reflected completely.

The IRNA managing director said the international and arrogant news agencies were trying to suppress the voice of innocence and independence-seeking of Bosnian Muslims.

He called on Muslims to make their best, through creating a vast news and information connection, not to let the voice of the deprived Muslims be silenced in the so-called civilised Europe.

In another development, Verdinejad inspected various sections of the official Croat news agency, HINA, and voiced IRNA's readiness for mutual cooperation.

He said that IRNA has 32 overseas bureaus and inside the country it has branches in all provinces and major cities while its news liaisons cover towns and villages.

The two sides reached agreement in principle on exchange of news, with experts from the two sides to work on its details.

Later in the day, Verdinejad held a meeting with Bosnian Muslim journalists of the TWR news agency.

Highlighting problems and restrictions of working in a foreign country, the journalists called for expansion of cooperation with IRNA.

Meanwhile, Verdinejad took part in a special ceremony held at the Zagreb mosque marking the birth anniversary of Islam's great lady Hazrat-e Fatimah Zahra (pbuh), the daughter of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and Woman's Day.

In a speech, he praised the resistance shown by women in Bosnia-Herzegovina and especially in Sarajevo and the active presence of Iranian women during the eight-years of the Iraqi imposed war.

Hungarian Minister Meets Commerce Minister

LD0612102793 Tehran IRNA in English 1015 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 6, IRNA—Visiting Hungarian Minister of External Economic Affairs Bela Kadar in a meeting with Commerce Minister Yahya ol-Eshaq here Monday [6 December] discussed ways of Tehran-Budapest cooperation and promotion of trade exchanges.

Noting that Iranian products are highly demanded in the Hungarian market, Ol-Eshaq called for lowering the imbalance in bilateral trade relations.

He pointed that Iran and Hungary have so far established four joint companies adding that the two countries could also jointly cooperate in the newly-independent states.

Kadar called for further promotion of Tehran-Budapest relations and hoped that Iranian companies would participate in the 1996 spring exhibition in Hungary.

Joint Economic Commission Opens

LD0612154593 Tehran IRNA in English 1450 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 6, IRNA—Iran's Minister of Agriculture, Isa Kalantari and Hungarian Minister of International Economic Relations, Bela Kadar here on Monday [6 December] opened the ninth session of Tehran-Budapest Joint Economic Commission.

Kalantari who is the Iranian head of the commission said there has already been an imbalance in trade exchanges between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Hungary in Hungary's favor. Therefore, he said, the two sides should adopt preferential tariffs and introduce customs exemptions more than before.

He said Hungary is a favourable market for Iranian products, and for this reason Iran's export promotion center intends to set up a large trade fair in Budapest next year.

Kalantari said in view of the conflicts in the Balkans, Iran's oil export to Hungary has been halted and it should be carried out through a third country.

Kalantari said Iran has agreed to purchase 1,300 buses from Hungary and it requires joint industrial cooperation to assemble that kind of buses for export to other countries.

He also called for further scientific and technological cooperation in the field of energy, light industries, chemical and assembly industries, agriculture and transport.

The Hungarian minister said the Islamic Republic of Iran is of high significance to his country and the current session of the Joint Economic Commission will help expansion of cooperation between the two countries.

He said Hungary increased purchase of non-oil commodities from Iran and his government was determined to reduce customs tariffs for Iranian carpets and mineral stones to three percent from 12 percent. The reduction will be in force from the beginning of next year, he said.

Editorial Views Moscow's Policy on Tajikistan

NC0412180093 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 28 Nov 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Tajikistan, Still Unstable"]

[Text] The Tajik Prime Minister Abdullodzhonov, returned to Dushanbe from his short trip to Moscow. At

the capital of Tajikistan Abdullodzhonov declared he had reached agreement with the Kremlin leaders regarding the substitution of the new rouble for the old rouble, still being circulated in Tajikistan.

Of all the republics that have emerged from the former Soviet Union, Tajikistan is the only country that has not been able to replace the old Russian rouble—which is practically worth nothing—with an independent monetary unit.

Political and economic chaos reigns in Tajikistan, and the communist clique which came into power in Dushanbe with a coup d'etat supported by the Russians and Uzbeks, faces daily intensifying popular opposition. In parts of the country, such as Badakhshan state, the popular resistance has taken a violent turn, forcing the ruling regime in Dushanbe to rely more and more on Moscow and Tashkent for its survival.

Dushanbe regime's increasing dependence on Moscow and Tashkent has reduced it to the status of a puppet regime, and in fact the leaders in Dushanbe are espousing the idea of re-establishment of the former Soviet Union under the leadership of the Russians, just to please the expansionist Russian factions.

By the same token political leaders in Dushanbe sided with the hardliner parliamentarians during the October show-down between the Russian President Boris Yeltsin and the parliament led by Khasbulatov.

In a sense Abdullodzhonov's trip to Moscow must be seen both as an attempt to get financial aid and as an effort on the part of the Tajik prime minister to get reconciled with the Yeltsin faction.

At the same time the local differences of view in Dushanbe and the covert struggle for power between the head of the regime Imamali Rakhmanov and the Prime Minister Abdullodzhonov should not be dismissed with so easily.

On the other hand there are serious differences of opinion in Moscow regarding the recent developments in Tajikistan as well as the future of that country.

Unfortunately some of the political factions in Moscow seem to be deluded by the impossible ideals of Pan-Slavism, in total disregard of the existing realities in the region.

Pursuing such mirages and sinking in a new quagmire would not only be disastrous for the ailing Russian empire, it would also destabilize the entire region.

Thus the Moscow leaders should adopt a realistic approach to the problems in Tajikistan, and respect the political aspirations of the Tajik nation before their support for a coup d'etat clique leads to catastrophe.

The Russians should be wary of repeating the bitter experience in Afghanistan.

President, Omani Commander View Naval Cooperation

LD0412115793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Dec 93

[Text] President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani received Omani Navy Commander [Rear Admiral] Shihab Bin-Tariq this morning.

During the meeting, the president referred to the grave responsibility of the two countries' navies in the safeguarding of the regional waters of the Strait of Hormuz and the Sea of Oman and expressed the hope that cooperation between the two countries would expand, particularly in naval affairs.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the establishment of real regional security in the Persian Gulf and the regional sea borders is possible under the umbrella of further cooperation between the neighboring countries.

The president said that the industrial, educational, logistical, and naval experiences of Iran and Oman are positive grounds for the expansion of cooperation between the two countries. He expressed the hope that relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Oman would become an appropriate model for the expansion of friendship and ties with other Persian Gulf neighbors.

During the meeting, at which Rear Adm. Shamkhani, our country's navy commander, was also present, the commander of the Omani Navy placed emphasis on historical relations and friendly bonds between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Oman and said: Relations between the two countries' naval forces have always been friendly and in line with the interests of the people of the two countries and the region. He also said: We would like such relations to continue and mutual cooperation—particularly in the Strait of Hormuz and the Sea of Oman—to expand further.

Also during a meeting this morning between the commander of the Omani Navy and Rear Adm. Shamkhani, emphasis was placed on the expansion of ties and cooperation between the two countries in naval affairs, as well as the use by Oman of the Islamic Republic of Iran's training, research, and self-sufficiency experiences.

Omani Navy Commander Departs

LD0612164193 Tehran IRNA in English 1600 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 6, IRNA—The Omani navy commander, Rear Admiral Shihab Bin-Tariq al-Sa'id left Tehran for home Monday [6 December] and was seen off by his Iranian counterpart Rear Admiral 'Ali Shamkhani.

Before departure at Mehrabad Airport, al-Sa'id expressed pleasure with the positive outcome of his talks with Iranian officials during his stay in Iran. The Omani

official underscored exchange of naval experiences between Tehran and Muscat to preserve mutual interest in the Persian Gulf. He also hoped for a close naval cooperation between Iran and Oman in a near future.

During his 3-day stay in Iran al-Sa'id held discussions with President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and the chief staff of the armed forces, 'Ali Shahbazi. Meanwhile the Omani Navy commander inspected naval facilities of the Islamic Republic in Hormuzgan Province Sunday. Al-Sa'id inspected technical facilities, factories, logistic ships and a hovercraft being repaired by navy force's personnel in a 4-hour visit. He also inspected 'Sabalan' destroyer repaired by experts of the Navy force. The ship was badly damaged in the Iraqi imposed war (1980-88).

Al-Sa'id is visiting Iran at the invitation of his counterpart Rear Admiral 'Ali Shamkhani.

Defense Minister Arrives in North Korea

WA0712075993

For Pyongyang and Tehran source reportage on the visit by Defense Minister Mohammad Forouzandeh to North Korea, please see the North Korea section of the 7 December East Asia DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

President: Islamic Rights of Women To Be Realized

LD0512132893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Text] On the auspicious birthday of Her Eminence Fatimah, peace be upon her, which is the Women-Mothers Day, the great festivity of Kuthar [the fountain], was held in Tehran's Azadi 12,000-seat stadium and in the presence of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

According to our correspondent, in the ceremony various strata of the nation's women had considerable presence. Our correspondent, Lulachi reports on the presidential remarks:

[Lulachi] In his speech the president said: One of the aspirations of all those who have faith in the Koran, including myself, is to re-establish, in the Islamic revolution, the true position of women, which has been usurped historically.

The president said: Throughout the Islamic revolution an effort has been made to awaken men and women to their rights and responsibilities—and here we have been somewhat successful.

Pointing out to the unnatural activities and wrong responsibilities allocated to women in the West, the president termed these as the cause for the breaking of affectionate ties and weakening of [family] life and said: The slogan of reformers, who are critical of the status quo, are heard today in the western world.

The president said allocating 40 percent of university capacities to women and their active role in the educational system are good examples. He said: In our country 32 percent of the government's scientific, technical, and educational activities are carried out by women.

He emphasized: In the context of existing laws, the government intends to exert efforts in granting true rights to women, so they can participate in social affairs while carrying out their duties in housekeeping and the education of children, which are important responsibilities in the order of creation.

The president emphasized: The various dimensions of the life of her eminence, Fatima, peace be upon her, can be a model for us.

Stating that in our country ladies can participate in all political, economic, social, cultural, and artistic activities while respecting their Islamic customs, he said: In Islamic law all things have been provided for, in moderation and abstention from extremes, and the Law on Ownership and Financial Independence for Women has been fully identified.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani also said: Of course I accept there are still some corrupt ideas that bar women, but there are also even more corrupt ideas that encourage women toward unrestraint. We hope that the true and pure Islam, one presented by Imam Khomeyni—may he be admitted to God's paradise—will be realized.

Finally he thanked all those who had participated in the festivity, particularly the Ministries of Culture and Islamic Guidance in Tehran Province.

President's Wife on Role of Women

LD0412121993 Tehran IRNA in English 0922 GMT 4 Dec 93

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 4, IRNA—Women have gained their true prestige in Iran and carry out their responsibilities while accorded the due respect and reverence of Muslim women, says Mrs. 'Effat Mar'ashi, wife of President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. She made the remark in an interview with the English daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' published Saturday [4 December] on the eve of the birthday anniversary of Hadhrat Fatimah (peace be upon her), the beloved daughter of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), which marks mother's day and beginning of women's week in Iran.

"Today, as compared to the pre-revolution period, there are more opportunities open to women to undergo training and to teach others at both universities and schools," she commented. In addition, she added, "women have a greater share, than at the time of despotic monarchy, in determining the fate of the country, for instance in the political affairs and in resistance struggles." However, she believed that in some instances such as industrial-administrative management, the climate is not amply ready for women's presence. "In

this respect, the ulema and the mass media can play a great role in improving this inappropriate atmosphere."

Asked to comment why there are no woman minister or deputy minister in the cabinet, she noted that in pre-revolution era competent women were not active but rather isolated. "After the glorious revolution, gradually pious women assumed the responsibility of social tasks and progressed accordingly."

Stressing that to reach higher posts women needed more time, Mrs. Rafsanjani noted, "just as they have made many achievements, they will also be able to occupy ministerial posts in the near future."

As for her private life, she said she had assumed the entire responsibility of the family both before and after the revolution, solving all problems at home so that her husband "would be able to think and act right in his struggles."

Khamene'i Pardons Women Prisoners

LD0412170393 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 4 Dec 93

[Excerpt] Let me draw your attention to some news just in: On the auspicious birth anniversary of the honorable daughter of the Prophet, Her Holiness Fatimah Zahra, peace be upon her, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the revolution, has granted pardons to or reduced the sentences of 109 women convicted by Islamic Revolution tribunals and 109 people convicted by special clerical courts throughout the country, in keeping with Islamic compassion.

The leader's consent to the pardons and the reduction in sentences of these prisoners was granted in response to a request from Ayatollah Yazdi, the head of the judiciary. [passage omitted]

Pakistan

Foreign Minister Comments on NPT, India

BK0712033193 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Asif Ahmad Ali has said that Pakistan will not sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] in a situation in which India is doing everything for the proliferation of nuclear weapons. In an interview with a Bangladeshi newspaper, THE TELEGRAPH, he said that Pakistan has been obliged to face a difficult situation through the linking of aid with the signing of the NPT in the Pressler Amendment, while India is acquiring nuclear technology and introducing weapons to carry nuclear warheads to their targets and [nuclear] submarines.

The foreign minister said that Pakistan believes in nuclear nonproliferation. However, the security issues of

relevant countries should be viewed from a regional perspective. He urged India to review its role in the region.

Foreign Minister on Talks With India

BK0612145893 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] The Minister for Foreign Affairs Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, has expressed confidence that India will create suitable environment in the occupied Kashmir so that there is some chance of success of the India-Pakistan foreign secretaries talks to be held in Islamabad in January. He was talking to newsmen at Karachi Airport today on his arrival from Dhaka where he attended SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] council of foreign ministers meeting.

Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali told newsmen that during the foreign secretaries talks, the Kashmir issue will be discussed in totality. He said Pakistan's position on this issue is very clear as we want solution of the Kashmir dispute according to the United Nations resolutions. He further said that during his meeting with his Indian counterpart in Dhaka, he made it very clear that when Pakistan agreed to holding talks on Kashmir dispute at foreign secretaries level, it was agreed by India that she will reduce the repression of Kashmiri people and lift the siege of Hazratbal [shrine] and also allow the world media and human rights organizations and NGO's [non-government organizations] to the occupied Kashmir. The foreign minister, however, regretted that even after the announcement of the talks, India has not fulfilled its commitment which surely will not help in the settlement of the Kashmir dispute.

Leghari Expresses Support for Kashmiris

BK0412144793 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 4 Dec 93

[Text] President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has said Pakistan will continue political, diplomatic, and moral support to the Kashmiri people in their struggle for self-determination. He was addressing Kashmiri refugees at (Angor) near Muzaffarabad today. He said the present government has effectively raised the Kashmir issue at the international level. He said the prime minister has also written letters to world leaders about the current situation in occupied Kashmir. He said the government has also instructed our missions abroad to mobilize world opinion on Kashmir issue. The president said Pakistan does not believe in interfering in the internal affairs of any country. Referring to the forthcoming Pak-India talks, Mr. Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari said it is for the first time that India has agreed to discuss all aspects of the Kashmir issue. The president said the Kashmir issue should be resolved in accordance with UN resolution so that the Kashmiris should decide their future.

During his day's visit to the capital of Azad Kashmir, the president also met the AJK [Azad Jammu and Kashmir] cabinet. Welcoming the president, the prime minister of Azad Kashmir, Sardar Mohammad Abdul Qayyum Khan, said the movement of Kashmiri people is directed to the accession of Kashmir to Pakistan. He said Kashmiri people are being subjected to the worst human rights violations. The Azad Kashmir president, Sardar Sikander Hayat Khan, was also present during the cabinet meeting. Addressing the cabinet, Mr. Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari said the world cannot remain indifferent to the Kashmir issue as their liberation movement is passing through a crucial phase. The president said Kashmiris and Pakistanis have social, cultural, and religious relations. The president said the unprecedented sacrifices of the Kashmiris will ultimately bear fruit.

Indian Fire Reportedly Kills 1, Wounds 4

BK0512023493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Text] One woman was killed and four were seriously injured as a result of shooting by Indian forces across the Line of Control in the Nakial and (Buxar) sectors of Azad Kashmir on Thursday [2 December]. Only a day before this incident, a woman in Turoti village was the target of the Indian troops' fire. In the (Buxar) Sector, Indian snipers shot at innocent civilian residents of Tanga and Malot villages on Thursday and Friday.

Paper on U.S. Bid To Put PRC in Kashmir Dispute

BK0512132193 Islamabad Daily KILABRAIN in Urdu 3 Dec 93 p 4

[Editorial: "What Does the United States Want?"]

[Text] A spokesman of the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad has stated that the People's Republic of China [PRC] is not occupying any part of Kashmir, nor is it a party to the Kashmir dispute. The spokesman said under the 1963 Pakistan-China Border Treaty forged in accordance with the recognized principles of give and take, the borders between Pakistan and PRC were reconstituted, thereby making some areas part of the PRC and some that of Pakistan. In the past 30 years, no objection has been raised on this treaty. However, stirring up the issue or raising any kind of objection to it on the part of the United States now can neither be given credence nor accepted.

The spokesman of the Chinese Embassy has made this clarification after press reports that during her visit to Pakistan last month, Ms. Robin Raphel, a senior official of the U.S. State Department, allegedly made some remarks about certain Kashmir areas under Chinese control and had said that China should also be included as a partner in the final settlement of the Kashmir dispute. Meanwhile, during his talks with a Pakistani correspondent in Washington, a U.S. State Department spokesman also said Kashmir is a disputed area that

includes a portion given to a third country, besides Pakistan and India. When asked by the correspondent whether he was hinting at that territory given to China under the 1963 Pakistan-China border treaty, the spokesman queried: Was that territory a part of Jammu and Kashmir Province?

The manner in which the Pakistan-China border treaty was treated by the U.S. Government after 30 years and its remarks on it have apparently sent a wave of concern among the intellectual and patriotic circles in Pakistan and have also invited certain unquotable remarks on it. Diplomatic sources and observers are of the opinion that at this stage, when India is constrained to hold talks with Pakistan on the Kashmir issue due to the widespread condemnation of its stand on the Kashmir freedom movement and the sacrifices of the freedom fighters, the attempt by the United States to stir up an already settled issue is tantamount to sabotaging the proposed talks and unnecessarily prolonging the process for a settlement of the dispute. The people of Pakistan cannot take the U.S. step to mean anything other than that the United States, by raising this sort of unreasonable and unjustifiable question on the Kashmir issue, in fact wants to give India a chance to prolong its occupation of Kashmir and complete its task of totally crushing the freedom fighters through its occupation forces. Not only Pakistan but freedom-loving nations of the world and the champions for the cause of human rights are expressing strong concern over the manner in which the massacre of Kashmiri Muslims was carried out by the Indian troops in Sopor town on the outskirts of Srinagar the other day. It is surprising that instead of taking note of the armed and inhuman action of the Indian troops against the helpless Kashmiris and asking India to desist from such inhuman acts, the U.S. officials want to or try to include such an element into the Kashmir dispute, which is tantamount to encouraging India. We cannot but condemn the attitude of the U.S. officials and their despicable attempt to stir up the already settled issue, because this attitude will not only become an element of obstacle for a solution to the Kashmir dispute but also is tantamount to making the invaluable sacrifices made by the freedom-loving Kashmiris fruitless. We expect that the members of the United Nations also will take note of this.

Editorial Warns of India's Missile Program

BK0412133193 Islamabad Daily *KHABRAIN* in Urdu 4 Dec 93 p 10

[Editorial: "India's Missile Program"]

[Text] India has successfully test fired the surface-to-surface missile Prithvi [Earth] the other day. This 250-km-range missile had undergone a series of tests earlier, and the one carried out the other day was the last of the series. After the acquisition of the Prithvi missile, the Indian army's combat capability will increase many times, which will endanger the security of Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and other small countries besides

Pakistan. These countries are relatively weak compared to the tremendous military potential of India.

According to Western media reports, India possesses a nuclear weapon, and it has amassed plutonium to the extent that it could make 25 to 30 bombs. India launched its missile program a decade ago, and since then it has experimented with various types of missiles, of which Prithvi and Agni [Fire] are top of the list. Agni is a long-range missile, whose range is 2,000 to 3000 kms. Although the Agni is in its early stages, after the successful test launch of Prithvi, Indian experts are now fully concentrating on Agni, and they will soon test-fire it successfully.

It is a strange thing that the United States took serious note of Pakistan's acquisition of missiles from China and imposed sanctions against China. Pakistan has already been subjected to similar, even more stringent, sanctions. However, India's nuclear program, which deserves serious notice, was not given such a consideration. Now, it is understood that the United States has asked both Pakistan and India to roll back their missile programs. In this case also, Pakistan is being subjected to the same injustice in its nuclear program and missile production, which is justified by the Pressler Amendment. Those at the helm of affairs in the U.S. Administration also have now realized that the restrictions imposed on Pakistan under the Pressler Amendment are not justifiable. From this, it can be rightly expected that the United States will soon move to redress this injustice and end the discriminatory treatment on Pakistan.

Editorial Cautions Against U.S., India Moves

BK0412100793 Rawalpindi *NAWA-I-WAQT* in Urdu 1 Dec 93 p 10

[Editorial: "The U.S. and Indian Designs; Pakistan Should Not Be Subjected to Any Perfidy"]

[Text] A senior official of the U.S. State Department has said the Pressler Amendment will be kept in abeyance but not abrogated, and the restrictions on Pakistan will remain intact. The United States wants to eliminate nuclear capability in South Asia and seek a solution to the Kashmir dispute, which will rid the region of tension. In the past few days, some flexibility could be noticed in the U.S. stand when Pakistan was given an encouraging signal that the Clinton administration would abrogate the Pressler Amendment and lift the ban on assistance to Pakistan.

Against this backdrop, some doubts and suspicions started emerging as to why the United States has become benevolent toward Pakistan all of a sudden. The opposition alleges that the Benazir Bhutto government wants to compromise on its nuclear program and on Kashmir and is going to please the United States by rolling back its nuclear program. Although the present government has time and again said that Pakistan will not roll back its nuclear program and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, in her briefing to newspaper editors, has categorically

stated that we have the "capability" to meet any threat, the public in Pakistan has no faith whatsoever in the categorical assurances of the government. There prevails a strong dread that if we step backward once by succumbing to the pressure of the United States, the trend will never come to an end. Second, if the United States, in return, gives any assurance, it cannot be trusted, because the history of Pakistan-U.S. relations has been not so pleasant.

The country has not yet forgotten the experiences of 1965 and 1971. The country has made the payment for F-16 aircraft, but the United States has been declining to deliver them. With the passage of time, the aircraft are becoming outdated. On the contrary, it has been adding to our account the charges toward their storage. By all means, we Pakistanis are well acquainted with the deeds of the United States. Therefore, when the United States becomes benign, the people of Pakistan give serious thought to it. Now, the recent announcement of the U.S. spokesman has made it clear that the United States does not have any sympathy toward Pakistan, as the resumption of U.S. aid to Pakistan is not at all possible until the Pressler Amendment is abrogated.

On the other side, the Pakistan-India talks on the Kashmir issue appear to have been put into cold storage. After the heinous acts of massacres, destruction, and arson committed by the Indian occupation forces in Sopor during their recent ghastly operation, the scope for Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's talks with her Indian counterpart has been nullified. The Voice of America has also expressed its fears about such an eventuality. In fact, it is not an easy task to bring India toward any solution to the Kashmir dispute. An element of friendship in Indo-Pakistan relations can only be introduced by "injection." The thousand-year history of Hindu-Muslim relations in the subcontinent bears testimony to the fact that the Hindus hate the very existence of the Muslims who were their former rulers. It is difficult to bridge the social gap between the two communities. The United States and Europe should not see the Indo-Pakistan relations against the backdrop of U.S.-Russia or UK-Germany ties. The reconciliation of two communities is possible anywhere in the world. However, in the subcontinent, the Hindus and Muslims cannot be brought closer without eliminating the rigid Hindu mentality. The Hindu religion itself is a bottleneck in this regard. By dividing Pakistan into two parts with its own hands, India created Bangladesh. However, later it started hating the very existence of Bangladesh itself, as it is also a Muslim country. Those quarters in Pakistan who have a good opinion of Hindus, should make no delay in changing their view. India is not used to maintaining good relations even with its neighbors like Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Bhutan who pose neither a challenge to it nor have any ideological difference with it. Thus, while wielding its baton of new world order, the United States should also know that mere power cannot resolve issues, but it does vitiate them further. The people of Pakistan will not accept any compromise at

any cost on the country's sovereignty, independence, and security, and the present government should not take any step in this direction.

Paper Rejects U.S. Formula on Kashmir

BK0612155993 Islamabad KHABRAIN in Urdu 6 Dec 93 p 10

[Editorial: "The Kashmir Dispute and Pakistan's Nuclear Program"]

[Text] Indian External Affairs Minister Dinesh Singh has said that India will make every possible effort to resolve the Kashmir dispute in accordance with the Simla agreement. On his arrival in Dhaka from New Delhi to attend the meeting of the foreign ministers of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SAARC], Dinesh Singh said that the UN resolution of 1948 on Kashmir has become irrelevant, and in the Simla agreement, both India and Pakistan had agreed to resolve "all disputes" in accordance with that agreement without any external interference. Indian Foreign Secretary J.N. Dixit had stated the other day that New Delhi can resolve the Kashmir dispute on the basis of the UN resolution of August 1948 also, but the Indian external affairs minister has indirectly contradicted Dixit's statement. Even the spokesman of the Indian External Affairs Ministry had described the foreign secretary's statement as erroneous and ruled out any kind of negotiations on the Kashmir dispute on the basis of the UN resolution of 1948.

Changing statements on the Kashmir issue has been the habit of the Indian officials and politicians. It is not only the politicians who refute the statements earlier made by government officials, but the officials, too, arbitrarily contradict the statements of certain politicians. This very attitude of the Indian officials and the politicians has actually complicated the Kashmir dispute and prevented the resolution of the problem.

As a result of pressure from the United States and some other friends, Pakistan has been giving concession after concession to persuade India to enter into a dialogue on the Kashmir dispute. Earlier, at the United Nations, Pakistan withdrew its censure resolution—which was sure to be approved—against the brutal oppression and violation of human rights by Indian forces in occupied Kashmir, thereby saving India from international condemnation.

Now, Pakistan has accepted the U.S. proposal to link its nuclear program with the Kashmir issue. According to press reports, Pakistan's foreign minister will reiterate this new Pakistani stand at the Dhaka SAARC ministerial conference and the government has directed its diplomatic corps to highlight this new viewpoint all over the world. The formula to link Pakistan's nuclear program with the Kashmir dispute was forwarded by the United States to the caretaker government of Moin Qureshi, and it has been accepted by the present government. According to this formula, if the Kashmir dispute

is settled, Pakistan will agree to adopt an unambiguous and final stand on its nuclear program.

We have always maintained that any stand on issues of national importance must be taken only through national consensus, and on issues like the Kashmir dispute and the nuclear program, this national consensus becomes even more necessary. The Pakistani people, political circles, and the intelligentsia hold the view that India cannot be trusted in any way. The contradictory statements made by Indian officials and the politicians during the past 48 hours prove how sincere India is about the negotiations to resolve the Kashmir dispute. The formula to link Pakistan's nuclear program with the Kashmir dispute can also prove to be a trap for Pakistan. We once again urge the Government of Pakistan not to make any final declaration or pledge on this issue without achieving national consensus. The Pakistani people are very sensitive about the Kashmir dispute and the nuclear program and will not accept any step, any pledge, nor any decision they think is against the national interest. Any wrong move or action by the government can not only cause difficulties for the government but also endanger democracy.

Foreign Minister on Retaining Nuclear Program

BK0712054193 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 7 Dec 93 p 12

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 6—Foreign Minister Asif Ahmad Ali has said that Pakistan would not possess more technology or ingredients to proliferate nuclear arms but at the same time "we will not roll back the nuclear programme."

In an interview with independent English Newspaper, THE TELEGRAPH published in its Monday's issue captioned "Pak option for N-plan due to Indian threat," [sentence as published] The Foreign Minister said, "We believe in principle that the nuclear buildup is bad for the people. We have the capacity to do so but we have given assurances that we will not do so and we are simply keeping option for nuclear buildup open for security reasons."

The question of nuclear non-proliferation and the security of the states concerned must be addressed from regional point of view while India must re-think about its role in this region, Mr Ali said.

Replying to a question about the US perception of nuclear proliferation by Pakistan, he said it would be difficult for Pakistan to sign nuclear non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) under the given situation when India was doing everything for proliferation.

The Foreign Minister said that Pressler's proposal for conditionalising the signing of NPT with aid had pushed Pakistan to a stake while India was still acquiring nuclear technology and introducing new weapons like nuclear carriers and submarines. "They are the naughty boys and nuclear delinquents", he added.

Asked about the present stand of the Pakistan Prime Minister not to roll back the nuclear plan in the wake of pressure from the West, Mr Ali said, "There were also suggestions from friends of Pakistan that it should not dismantle its nuclear programme."

When asked if (India) is not in a position to go to war what is the necessity on the part of Pakistan to maintain nuclear plant, the Foreign Minister said, "this is just because we can't let our defence programme shelved. We had been victim of aggression before and just for that matter we can't play with our own security."

The Pakistan foreign Minister referred to the Indian plea of developing nuclear weapons to counter China and said in the present context China is not at all threat to India or any other country.

Asked if Pakistan was in a position to counter India which has more than half a million soldiers Mr Ali said there was no provocation from Pakistan side rather India was mobilising soldiers to contain its internal insurgency which was going on in different parts of India.

He said India has got lot of problems and added even a massive troops mobilisation in Kashmir failed to restrain the Kashmiri people. "Just by using force you can't contain them."

Asked Pakistan would go for any defence pact with Bangladesh particularly when the 25-year treaty between Bangladesh and India expires by 1996. [sentence as published] He said, "Let time come. We have the highest sympathetic sentiments for the people of Bangladesh and what Bangladesh expects from us will be given due attention. "We have cooperation at all levels, he said.

Top Generals Insist on Nuclear Option

BK0612104193 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 6 Dec 93 p 11

[Report by Ansar Abbasi]

[Text] Islamabad: There was unanimity among the speakers at a seminar on "Pakistan's Nuclear Option" that the nuclear programme is a deterrent, essential for the country's security, and so it should not be rolled back, frozen or capped, otherwise the country could face serious threats from outside.

The seminar, which was organised by the Institute of Policy Studies, asked whether the fact that Pakistan has made a nuclear device should be declared to the world or should be kept vague.

Those who enlightened the audience included: the former Joint GOAS, General (Retd) K M Arif, the director general of ISI, Lt General (Retd) Asad Durrani; the former federal minister and ambassador to Washington, Abida Hussain; Senator Khuram; Dr Tahir Amin and a former ambassador, Dr S M Koreshi.

The speakers were also united in the belief that nuclear non-proliferation would be welcomed if it were universal, but any selective application of the principle should never be accepted.

Without going into controversies concerning who capped the programme, General K M Arif said the important question to ask was, why was it capped? What was the aim? Was it done to get US aid or to get the Pressler Amendment scrapped?

General (Retd) Asad Durrani said ambivalence is better than declaration because declaration would diminish the effectiveness of the threat. He said the Pakistani nuclear threat was based on assumption.

The retired general said that India believes that we have the capability and the will to use it. He said the enemy is hesitant about launching a crackdown in occupied Kashmir because of this deterrent.

If one side, he said, is conventionally weaker than the other side, it must rely on the strength of deterrence. A genuine deterrent, he said, would function at every level—both conventional and nuclear.

Durrani said that the US linkage of Pakistan's nuclear programme with that of India has helped in many ways. The negative effect, he said, would be if India agreed to denuclearise its capability. Then Pakistan would have to give up its deterrent, and that would leave Pakistan on an unequal level with India's conventional weapons.

Syed Abida Hussain said that during her tenure as ambassador to Washington she went through a very strange and rather humiliating experience. She said the people in the US are very crude, and they don't care for others, especially those who are useless for them.

She said she landed in the US with the idea that the US was Pakistan's friend, as they jointly struggled against the Soviet Union for Afghanistan, but for the US Afghanistan has already become history.

During her stay in Washington she said, she suffered severe criticism and hatred of Pakistan and the Muslim countries.

North Korea, Pakistan and Kazakhstan are three countries which are the constant target of their criticism in this regard. The other thing she experienced there was that the Americans used the terminology of Muslim 'fundamentalists,' militants and 'the Muslim threat.'

Dr Tahir Amin, professor of international relations at Quaid-e Azam University, said was between Pakistan and India had been averted on several occasions because of the nuclear deterrent.

He raised three very important questions. Why are governments in Pakistan weak, and why do they compromise on national issues? What is the extent of American penetration in Pakistan? And what changes have taken place in the world, and what will their implications on Pakistan be?

He said the national interest is defined by a small military bureaucratic elite which is approached by outsiders, and they always compromise the national interest defined by themselves. He said no political government has the capacity to withstand such pressures.

Editorial Views Debate Over Nuclear Program

BK0412053593 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN
OBSERVER in English 4 Dec 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Consensus exists on nuclear issue"]

[Text] Our two main political parties are at the moment engaged in a fierce debate around the subject of our nuclear programme. They are trading accusations against each other in a vain attempt to prove that the other side is not to be trusted with the leadership of the nation. Legislative work is being held up in the National Assembly because the Opposition is determined to have a debate on the nuclear project and wants to know whether it has been capped, rolled back or merely frozen. Both parties appear to be keen to make capital out of this important national issue, without caring to consider whether by so doing they may be doing harm to national interests.

Retired General Mirza Aslam Beg has, in an interview with this newspaper, categorically stated that Pakistan's nuclear programme has neither been capped nor frozen, but that country has adopted a policy of *restraint*. Mirza Aslam Beg's statement should put an end to the unseemly public controversy. He states that this question of nuclear technology is a matter on which there is a national consensus and that both Benazir Bhutto and Mian Nawaz Sharif know the position quite well. The decision to exercise *restraint* was taken by the former President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, the then Prime Minister, Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto and the then Chief of the Army Staff. Gen Aslam Beg has also stated that Mian Nawaz Sharif inherited this decision. He maintains therefore both the present Prime Minister and the leader of the Opposition have been significantly involved in all vital decisions relating to the nuclear programme. According to Gen Beg there was *no external pressure* to compel the government to adopt the policy of *restraint* in regard to the nuclear project. He was quite clear in this perception that the present policy on the nuclear programme was accepted by the present Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto as well as by the former prime minister, Mian Nawaz Sharif when they were at the helm of affairs. There is not the least justification in any one of them blaming the other for anything relating to the government's nuclear policy [words indistinct] and clear statement on this vexed question. Coming from one who

held high office until virtually the other day, it is credible and must be accepted as an honest and categorical statement of a reality. Any further debate on nuclear policy would obviously be facetious, futile and altogether counterproductive.

The whole world knows all that it wants to know about our nuclear project and therefore there is hardly any point in raising the deafening hue and cry which is only confusing the whole nation. All that needs to be done by the government side is to concede the demand of the Opposition to debate this matter and begin the debate with a clear simple statement of facts as Gen Mirza Aslam Beg has done. Then, if necessary, invite the leader of the Opposition to have his say. This should end the matter and parliament could then get along with its business of legislating for the country. We are a mature nation and can face facts, even when they are not quite in accord with our wishes. If both sides speak up honestly about what they know and about what they have done we would understand the constraints under which they have been working. There is no need for further mystification of a subject that has received so much pointless publicity. If this is done what appears to be a bone of contention will in fact turn out to be a matter over which there has always been a large measure of a national consensus.

Editorial Backs Regional Nuclear Policy

BK0512100893 Karachi DAWN in English 4 Dec 93 p 13

[Editorial: "Pakistan's Nuclear Offer"]

[Text] At a time when the nuclear programme controversy in Pakistan has kicked up a lot of dust in Islamabad, some sane proposals are also being put forward. These merit serious consideration. The latest offer to emanate from Islamabad is in the context of the inspection of nuclear facilities. The Pakistan Foreign Office has said that it is ready to accept international inspection of its nuclear plants within a regional framework. This is an eminently sensible proposition in view of the fact that Pakistan's nuclear programme cannot be viewed in isolation from its regional context. Ever since the seventies when the US took up the cudgels against Pakistan's reprocessing plant on the plan of nuclear non-proliferation, the programme has been closely linked with the strategic dimensions of Indo-Pakistan relations. Hence, whatever step is taken in respect of the nuclear programme, it must be linked to South Asian security.

Amongst other reservations Pakistan has had about the international criticism raised against its nuclear programme is its strong sense of resentment against the discriminatory approach of the champions of non-proliferation. While they have demanded that Pakistan cap its nuclear programme and open it to inspection by outside experts, they have adopted a strangely lenient attitude towards India's nuclear ambitions. This is why Islamabad has repeatedly insisted that an even-handed policy be adopted towards India and Pakistan. If nuclear

weapons are to be barred from Pakistan's arsenals and checks have to be placed on its nuclear programme to pre-empt the acquisition of a nuclear capability, the same yardstick must be applied to the other countries in the region as well. In the same context, it is logical that if there is to be international inspection of nuclear facilities it must be carried out on a regional basis.

The basic fact which has yet to be recognised by the regional powers as well as the Western governments who have been pushing for a non-proliferation regime in South Asia is that disarmament must be precluded by confidence-building measures and political detente. Even if disarmament negotiations do not have to wait for total normalisation of relations, meaningful talks can be initiated only as a simultaneous process parallel to initiatives towards political conciliation. Moreover, whatever steps are contemplated, they must respect the principle of reciprocity and equality. Thus alone can nations negotiate when their relations are strained by a long legacy of distrust and suspicion, besides unresolved conflicts. This applies all the more to measures pertaining to the nuclear programmes of India and Pakistan. As these principles were observed in negotiating an agreement between the two countries on the non-use of force against each other's nuclear facilities, the accord has held the ground.

Since a dialogue between the Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan is planned for January 1, they can be expected to place the nuclear issue also on their agenda. But it would be more feasible for the two countries to begin their negotiations with the Kashmir dispute which is the biggest irritant at the moment in their relations. As the prospects of peace and stability brighten up, the nuclear question can also be taken up. But for that a regional approach has to be tried. For instance, the long standing proposal from Islamabad for a nuclear-weapons-free-zone in South Asia could always be revived.

Daily Does Not Foresee Resumption of U.S. Aid

BK0512084893 Rawalpindi JANG in Urdu 3 Dec 93 p 3

[Editorial: "Pressler Amendment and the U.S. Aid"]

[Text] Talking to a JANG correspondent, a senior U.S. State Department official, an expert on South Asian affairs, said that the nonmention of the Pressler Amendment in the draft foreign aid bill recently introduced for discussion, does not in any way mean that the Pressler Amendment is going to be annulled or that it will not form a part of the new legislation. Therefore, in spite of the passage of the new draft legislation on foreign aid, the restrictions against Pakistan will be maintained, and the existing U.S. policy will continue until the elimination of the nuclear capability in South Asia.

According to another report, the United States has forwarded a 10-point package of proposals to Pakistan to have its nuclear program rolled back. Similar proposals have also been sent to India, with the assurances that if

Pakistan and India agreed to freeze their respective nuclear programs at a particular level, then they will not be required to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] and the United States will provide special protection to them. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has once again categorically declared that it is not possible to roll back our nuclear program and that if this was possible, she could have already done it.

The sole superpower that remains on the global political scene after the disintegration of the former Soviet Union is the United States, which is fully aware that it may face the same predicament as the former Soviet Union did as a result of its military budget, especially as a result of its ambition to forge ahead in the nuclear arms race. The ill effects of the programs, like star wars, on the U.S. economy are even now clearly evident, which have led to the exit of Ronald Reagan [as published] and George Bush. Under these circumstances, Washington does not want to leave intact any zone of tension in South Asia where the ominous specter of a nuclear war would be foreboding the annihilation of the human race.

Pakistan's nuclear program is solely for peaceful purposes, for meeting energy requirements, and Islamabad does not wish to unleash a nuclear arms race under any circumstances. If India is ready to sign the NPT [Non-proliferation Treaty], then Pakistan is also willing to do so without any hesitation, because Islamabad has achieved nuclear capability—limited only to theoretical and technical level—only in view of the threat from India and this threat is not unfounded. Pakistan has not only been the target of Indian aggression three times in the past but has also lost a part of the country. Under these circumstances, Pakistan will have to take every step very cautiously and will have to fully understand that even if the Pressler Amendment is rescinded, the alternative (Semington) Amendment will be more stringent, and Pakistan will never be able to receive the same amount of aid as it did in the past in view of the peculiar economic situation in the United States and the ongoing changes in the global political scenario. Islamabad should, therefore, try to very effectively convince the United States about the peaceful nature of its nuclear program.

Government To Send 'Reminder' to U.S. on F-16's
BK0712055993 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 7
Dec 93 p 12

[Text] Islamabad—Pakistan has decided to remind the United States of an earlier suggestion to former inter-governmental Group (IGG) for higher level talks on the F-16 aircraft issue.

After waiting for a reply from the Clinton Administration in this regard for the last 14 weeks, the government has decided to open up the issue by sending a "reminder" to the US government for talks on the subject.

The reminder will be handed over to head of US Office of the Defence Representative in Pakistan (ODRP) shortly for onward transmission to concerned man in Washington. A formal approval of the Prime Minister has already been secured for sending the "reminder" so that "Pakistan-United States talks" on the F-16 matter should be held at an appropriate time to be mutually agreed between the defence departments of both the countries.

Islamabad has been awaiting the US reply on its suggestion of forming IGG since August 24, 1993 for thrashing out the issue controlling the two governments an delivery of the (?60) F-16 aircraft. Pakistan has stopped quarterly installments of the [figure indistinct] 4 billion dollars deal since July this year. Till March 1993, Pakistan has made payments to the tune of 653 million dollars in several installments. The further payments in instalments were stopped because of the default on the part of the US for not delivering the F-16 planes. The delivery of planes was scheduled to be started in March 1993 with first batch of six planes. However, the US government under the excuse of the Pressler Law, did not honour the government-to-government level contract.

Meanwhile, sources say that no officials level talks are scheduled to be held with the visiting three-member delegation of Lockheed, the manufacturers of F-16. This is second time that the Lockheed delegation has visited Pakistan for promoting its interests during the last four months.

The main purpose of the Lockheed delegation is to lobby here among the top circles that "Pakistan should give some token financial gesture by releasing some million US dollars to make the payment of installments process going."

Contrary to this view, Pakistan is reluctant to make some token financial gesture, taking the plea that "It was the US government which defaulted first by not delivering the planes." Pakistan takes the plea that the F-16 contract was signed much before the Pressler hurdle had come in the way.

Secondly, keeping in view its financial resources Pakistan seems reluctant to invest in a "dead deal", unless the US gives some hope the delivery of planes will start in the near future. Even, Pakistan is not ready to pay "contract termination cost" saying that the US government should bear the cost of termination of the contract.

A number of concerned officials say that "they do not want to hear pro-aircraft deal arguments from the Lockheed delegation, as the US Defence Department is officially taking another line". They say that the present visit of the Lockheed delegation is aimed at plunging Pakistan into a deep trouble by restoring blocked installment of July 1998.

Clinton-Rushdie Meeting 'Injured' Muslim World
BK2911125593 Rawalpindi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 29
Nov 93 p 10

[Editorial: "Clinton's Meeting With the Condemned Rushdie"]

[Text] Iran has reacted sharply to U.S. President Bill Clinton's meeting with the condemned Rushdie, the author of the book *The Satanic Verses* and described it as a conspiracy against the Islamic world. The manner in which Satan Rushdie blasphemed the last of all prophets and ridiculed the predecessors of the Muslims has deeply hurt the sentiments of the entire Islamic world which has strongly protested against this blasphemy. Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Khamene'i had issued an Islamic legal ruling against Satan Rushdie, which was followed by the entire Muslim world and Rushdie had to fear for his life.

What is astonishing is that Europe, instead of reviewing accursed Rushdie's fallacies that hurt the sentiments of over 1 billion Muslims or banning the sale and purchase of his disputed book, started to defend and support him, thereby proving that the battle between the Crescent and the Cross is still raging, and not only the intellectuals but also the rulers of Europe and the United States are behind the movement to blaspheme Prophet Muhammad. This is the reason why Satan Rushdie was given protection; and now President Clinton has met him, even though Rushdie was neither the head of any state nor an eminent personality whom the U.S. President would have deemed it necessary to meet.

The United States is currently the sole superpower and talks of fulfilling its global responsibilities, but its attitude toward the 1.4 billion Muslims is hostile and biased. This is the reason a school of thought is gaining ground that the U.S. new world order is nothing but a conspiracy to suppress or weaken the Islamic world. Clinton's meeting with Rushdie has injured the sentiments of the Pakistani people as of the entire Muslim world. The Government of Pakistan should, therefore, protest against it and tell the U.S. leadership what feelings the Muslims have about their prophet despite all their shortcomings in practicing their religion.

General Says U.S. Ban Prompts Reliance on China

BK0612104393 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 6
Dec 93 pp 1,10

[Report by Aroosa Alam]

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 5: The US arms and economic embargo has impelled Pakistan to rely heavily on China and to explore European countries for acquisition of high-tech arms and equipment.

This was stated by Gen Shamim Alam, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee [JCSC] while talking to

reporters at the inauguration of 13th national and international seminar on defence science and technology at POF [Pakistani ordnance factory] Wah Sunday [5 December] morning.

Gen Shamim said while Pakistan would continue its efforts to resolve the issue of arms and high-tech equipment transfer from the US, it would continue to seek technical as well as financial assistance from China and European Community. He said that China was one country which knew about the technological imperialism of the West. He said Pakistan had access to the technical resources of China and some European countries but these countries were not leaders in sensitive technology.

Gen Shamim pointed out to the exchange of top-level political and defence visits between China and Pakistan. He said these visits would further strengthen the ongoing cooperation between the two countries in the field of defence and economy.

Pakistan's Minister for Defence, Aftab Mirani, Gen Shamim said, was currently discussing matters pertaining to main battle-field tank Khalid and jet-trainer Karakoruni-8 in Beijing. He said Pakistan and China were jointly working to indigenise tank and jet-trainer. He said the Defence Minister was also meeting the Chinese defence authorities to conclude matters of defence cooperation between the two countries prior to the Prime Minister's visit to China late this month.

Terming the visit of the PLA [People's Liberation Army] Chief of General Staff to Pakistan a great success the Chief of JCSC said it was a good will visit, and the first-ever visit to Pakistan by the Chinese CGS [chief of the general staff], he said. Replying to various queries regarding national security matters, he said, Pakistan and India would be sitting at a conference table next month and "we hope matters relating to regional peace and security will be discussed in a meaningful manner". About demilitarisation of Siachen, he said "First we would have to look into India's official stance on Siachen issue." Unless the two sides negotiate on the conference table, he said, no decision could be taken. He said Siachen and Kashmir were not inter-linked.

Asked as to how he viewed the demand of the political leadership to discuss the nuclear issue and matters of national security in an open House, Gen Shamim said, it was the responsibility of the elected leadership to take decisions on matters of national security in the National Assembly. "If they have taken this decision, I am sure this is the right decision", he said.

Earlier addressing the defence seminar at the POF Wah, Gen Shamim stressed the need for the development of a modern and a broad-based defence indigenisation programme to close the window of vulnerability without seriously jeopardising the country's security.

Gen Shamim said Pakistan had been frequently subjected to economic and arms embargoes. These embargoes, he said, made it abundantly clear that our defence

capabilities would be dangerously circumscribed if we continued to depend on foreign resources for our defence requirements. He said within the limits of our present narrow economic and industrial base and resource constraint, the government was fully committed to a policy of defence reliance. He said in pursuit of this objective, the Government had directed that all defence contracts should contain specific clauses for the smooth transfer of technology while buying defence equipment. It was also directed that steps should be initiated to involve the private sector in defence indigenisation.

The General said that an amount of Rs 2.5 billion has been allocated by the government for implementation of the national technology policy.

Lauding the professional skills of Pakistani scientists and engineers in the defence field, Gen Shamini Alam said, Pakistan was today successfully overhauling and rebuilding ships, aircrafts, and tanks. Pakistan, he said, had achieved self-sufficiency in small arms and all calibres of ammunition. He said Pakistan was producing, a wide range of defence equipments including anti-tanks and surface-to-air missiles. He said though Pakistan was still far from attaining self-sufficiency in the field of sophisticated equipments, it had demonstrated that we were capable of absorbing high technology.

Addressing the private sector representatives, he said the private sector must expand its technological base and acquire a degree of sophistication. He appreciated the POFs for producing a wide range of defence products of international quality and standards. He said the POF has helped a great deal in making the country self-sufficient in small arms and various calibres of artillery and tanks and small-arms ammunition.

Stressing the need of enhancing the role of private sector in the defence production, the Chairman JCSC urged to expand its technological base and acquire a degree of sophistication. The government too has directed to involve the private sector to fully mobilise its vast untapped resources for the defence of Pakistan, he added.

Though Pakistan, he said, was a peace loving country, striving to achieve a durable peace in the region, yet it had frequently been subjected to unilaterally imposed arms and economic embargoes.

"No independent and self-respecting nation which values its sovereignty and integrity can afford to leave this window of vulnerability open without seriously jeopardising the country's security."

General Shamim said, "It makes all the more clear that our defence capabilities would be seriously circumscribed if we continue to depend on foreign sources for our defence requirements.

"Moreover we have learned from our history that desire for peace will only be respected if it is backed by a credible capability, to defend ourselves," he added.

In his address of welcome, Chairman POF Board Maj Gen Mohammad Ali Durrani, said the seminar would help enhance the technical threshold of the country's defence industry and crystalise thoughts on related issues. He said the POF would benefit from the expert opinion of the large contingent of foreign defence experts and representatives of the friendly countries during the three days seminar on defence sciences and technology.

On the opening day of the seminar, four papers on defence technology were read out. A paper on 'Targets smart approach' was read out by French expert Patric Marie. The paper highlighted the tilting anti-tank projectile. Lt Col Dr Syed Zulfikar Hussain read an article on development of energetint HTPB-based composite propellant and the use of oxytetracycling.

Prof David Izod of Royal Ordnance UK read an article on quality assurance in defence production. Mirande Maurice of MATRA Defence France read a paper on 'Manportable air defence system for the field army.'

Chinese T-85 Tanks Ready for Delivery

BK0612103993 Islamabad THE NATION in English 6 Dec 93 pp 1,4

[Text] Beijing (APP)—The Chinese manufactured T-85 tanks are ready to be shipped out to Pakistan, Defence Minister Mir Shahban Mirani said here on Sunday.

In an interview, the Defence Minister said he visited the Tank Factories in Taobao, where the T-85s are being manufactured for Pakistan. "The visit was very informative, he said." I saw the T-85 tanks, which are ready to be shipped but," Mr Mirani said.

He said the Chinese would later transfer the technology of manufacturing T-85s to Pakistan. Thereafter, T-85 tanks would be manufactured there.

About the Main Battle Tank (MBT-2000) al-Khalid, which is a joint venture project between China and Pakistan, Defence Minister Mirani said its prototype would be ready by the beginning of 1995.

Tank Al-Khalid will be, according to military sources a highly advanced armour vehicle with ingredients of a modern and sophisticated tank. It will be comparable in performance with any of the latest world MBTs.

Asked how Al-Khalid will compare with the Arjun Tank, which India is trying to manufacture over the past several years, the sources said "Al-Khalid would beat Arjun any time." It would have better manoeuvrability and would be better equipped than the Indian tank.

Replying to a question, Mr Mirani said Al-Khalid would come on line "if it is finally approved and proves successful.

Mr Mirani said he had "very fruitful discussions" with the Chinese Defence Minister Chi Haotian and the Vice-Chairman of the Central Ministry Commission, Liu Huaging. These talks were "very successful."

The Chinese leaders reiterated that Pakistan's solidarity and integrity was a very important factor, and they believed that all problems in the region should be solved peacefully, he added.

The Minister said he expressed upon the Kashmir issue and particularly the situation in occupied Kashmir. "They (Chinese) also agreed that a peaceful solution should be found" he said.

About his discussion on the world situation, Mr Mirani said "Our perceptions are the same. China like Pakistan believes in peace and wants peaceful co-existence with all its neighbours."

Yet China's special relationship would continue, he said in reply to another question.

On the prospects of further strengthening the defence cooperation with China, the Defence Minister said it was an on-going process. "Our cooperation started with the Kamra Factory, and the Heavy Industrial Complex at Taxila.

Our cooperation is a continuous process."

About bilateral cooperation in the economic field, he said that apart from the Saindak Coopera Mining Project, there were other projects also. "The latest is the nuclear power plant that is coming up at Chashma."

To a question if China was still committed to provide the nuclear power plant for the Chashma project, the Minister said "Yes, the commitment is there."

The Defence Minister held meetings with various Chinese company leaders like those of Costin, Norinco and Catic.

The Pakistan Ambassador in China, Mr Khalid Mahmood, hosted a return banquet at the Pakistan House.

The Pakistani delegation will return home today.

PRC's Li Ruihuan Supports 'Special Relations'

BK0712035193 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Text] China has said that it sincerely desires the establishment of multifaceted relations with Pakistan. Li Ruihuan, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, said in an interview in Islamabad yesterday that he had told the Pakistani leaders that the PRC wholeheartedly desires the continuation of the special relations between the two countries. He said that China supports all efforts for the establishment of friendly relations among South Asian countries and for the peaceful resolution of outstanding issues.

Afghan Deputy Premier Meets President Leghari

BK0612150593 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] The first deputy prime minister of Afghanistan, Engineer (Qotboddin Hilal) [title and name as heard], called on President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari in Islamabad today and conveyed to him warm felicitations and greetings from the government and the people of Afghanistan on the assumption of his office. The president thanked the Afghan leader and told him that as a result of recent elections, a stable government has been established in Pakistan, which will have a positive impact on regional peace and stability.

Afghan deputy prime minister briefed the president about the latest developments in Afghanistan and explained the efforts made by the Hezb-e Eslami for resolving differences through peaceful negotiations. The president expressed concern over the escalation of military tension and expressed the hope that rival factions in Afghanistan would desist from the use of force which would not solve any problem but result in more deaths and destruction. The president expressed his sincere hope that various factions of mujahedin will hold negotiations within the framework of the Islamabad and Jalalabad accords to resolve their differences. He underlined that the implementation of these accords will further the process of conciliation.

The Afghan deputy prime minister conveyed his deep gratitude for the political, moral, and material support extended by Pakistan during the jihad [holy war] and expressed gratification that Pakistan's policy of good-neighborly relations with Afghanistan enjoyed the support of all mujahedin groups.